THE MINISTER'S TASK FORCE ON LITTER ABATEMENT

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC MEETINGS

THE HONOURABLE DONALD P. McINNES
Minister of the Environment

October 1988

Nova Scotia

The Minister's Task Force on Litter Abatement

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC MEETINGS

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SCHEDULE
OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

July 12	Tuesday	Dartmouth Findlay Community Centre
July 13	Wednesday	Truro N.S. Teachers College
July 14	Thursday	Amherst Confederation Memorial Building
July 19	Tuesday	Liverpool Lions Community Centre
July 20	Wednesday	Yarmouth Rodd Colony Harbour Inn
July 21	Thursday	Middleton Fire Hall
July 25	Monday	Sydney Cabot Room, Ramada Inn
July 26	Tuesday	Port Hawkesbury Provincial Building
July 27	Wednesday	New Glasgow Town Council Chamber
July 28	Thursday	Halifax Province House, Red Chamber

Schedule of Presentations

DARTMOUTH

July 12, 1988

County of Halifax
NDP Caucas
Halifax County - Bedford District School Board
City of Dartmouth
Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board
Society of NS/PEI Bottle Dealers & Recyclers
Robin Rigby and Cindy Locke
Dartmouth Cleaner & Greener Committee

Councillor Wayne Adams
County of Halifax

Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Question Period

How will the RCMP react to stepping up surveillance of littering?

The RCMP has a manpower problem but a case could be argued for increased enforcement.

What was Canada Post's response to the problem of litter, especially junk mail, at mail boxes?

Canada Post was approached but with no success. The containers he personally placed did work.

How many roadside "no littering" signs are in place?

Two of the districts in the County have only 3 signs each.

Is the $50 posted penalty sufficient?

No, it is not a deterrent.

Who picked up the garbage containers placed at the mailboxes?

The local garbage collectors did. It should be part of the municipal collection contract.

What would industry's reaction be to additional litter related messages being put on containers?

There would be initial resistance but the government can imply the need and the public could encourage it.

What about labelling packaging which comes in from outside Nova Scotia? A large distributor suggested it couldn't do specific labels for Nova Scotia.

It is generally labelled for the province it is going to.

Task Force Comment - Perhaps the federal government should address the labelling issues.

With respect to garbage containers at bus stops, has the Transit authority been requested to do something?
He doesn't know if such a request has been made.
How would retailers feel about deposits if containers are returned to the retail store?
Retailers should look at it as repeat business. He bought a bottle of ginger beer in Dartmouth and the container was returnable only in Quebec.
What about a special tax on fast food?
Yes, it could be a good idea. A penny on a fast food container could generate a lot of money.

Task Force Comment - Environmental taxes exist elsewhere.

Should the suggested $1,000 littering fine apply to quantity dumping, a single small item, etc.?
Offhand, it should apply to all cases.

Task Force Comment - A $50 fine would be overly lenient for the bottle throwing incident in which a person lost his sight in one eye.

Public Question - A Dartmouth householder asked about garbage separation.
He doesn't know the cost of the boxes used for separation.

Public Comment - Some communities in Ontario, e.g. Mississauga have the blue box programme which assists in garbage disposal site location problems.

Task Force Comment - It is expected that the blue box household participation in Ontario were soon go from 800,000 to one million.

Maureen Vine and Joanne Lamey
NDP, Dartmouth South

Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Additional Comments - The problem with so many acts, agencies etc. is that it becomes confusing for citizens as to who is responsible to do what.
A material problem exists with some products being manufactured with built-in absolence.
Community groups such as the Ecology Action Centre have taken the lead in public education i.e. handouts for teachers.
The priority for litter prevention and clean up programmes are the reduction or elimination of litter in manufacturing or packaging processes and the requirement for government to meet litter abatement regulations or goals to participate in recycling programmes.
Calgary has a yellow bag programme to facilitate the pick up and recycling of newspapers.
The Nova Scotia New Democrats support the idea of good environmental administration being good business as in like with U.N. philosophies.

Question Period

With respect to the definition of litter, what is the difference between organic and manufactured material?
One is natural and one is man-made.
Why does the reference to banning non-returnable containers only refer to carbonated beverages?
It should be all beverages.

Public Comment - A lady from Dartmouth referred to the scarcity of garbage receptacles in the city and of the disgraceful conditions after Dartmouth Natal Day.

Why do you have a problem with the Clean Nova Scotia Foundation? It did get Sobeys to begin using a photo-degradable bag?
Institutionalizing the problem and the good will approach does not work. A Foundation

must be able to influence legislation and programmes. Just because the Foundation exists, it won't solve the problems. An example is the Status of Women Council which is useful in many ways but hasn't really effected any change.

What about the Ecology Action Centre?

Some groups aren't accountable to the public.

Task Force Comment - The Clean Nova Scotia Foundation received only an administrative grant from the government which is not proposed for the future. It does have a mixed membership for its Board of Directors.

Where is the burden of paying for initiatives?

It is a societal problem so industry and the public should share the costs.

Is the burden with the producers, manufacturers or the consumers?

It is a shared responsibility.

Lois Wiseman, Dr. Joe Morrison
Halifax County-Bedford District School Board
Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Additional Comments - A year ago she got a call from a parent concerning the litter around the school and environs concerning thousands of beer and pop cans, paper, broken bottles etc. The sun glinted off broken glass in the school yard and there were a vast number of plastic "freezie" bags. There were 14 pop bottles along a 300 ft. stretch from the school to a local store. These problems led to a meeting and while the caretaker cleaned up before the meeting, when they came there was another broken bottle. A number of resolutions banning non-refillables have been passed by various groups. The five recommendations contained in the brief have been approved by the school board and will be implemented. It was reported at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities meeting that 40 carcinogens have been identified in a California landfill site.

Question Period

Is there a suggestion that the Department of Education approve additions to the curriculum or can the school board do it itself?

They must use a standardized curriculum although they do have some autonomy but to get a programme province wide, it should come from the province.

The school board can do it but the impact is greater if it is province wide. Therefore, there is the need for action by the provincial Department of Education. It is a topic that could be integrated in the current system although smaller school boards may have a problem implementing it. The anti-smoking campaign was very successful in a short period of time.

Do school children know about garbage dumps?

We can not respond in a general way. Perhaps this problem could be part of a holistic approach to the environment.

What methods could be used for conveying ideas?

Audio-visual aids and science field trips. The problem must be focussed on.

Is there a difference between recommendations #3 and #5?

#3 deals with assuming responsibility and #5 deals with the use of incentives. The problem must be approached from many angles and new and innovative solutions may have potential.

What about provincial involvement by home and school associations and will parents back the school board's position?

We would like to get provincial support.

Mayor John Savage
City of Dartmouth
Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Additional Comments - About 40% of the material taken to the regional landfill site is paper products. To reduce waste production, the city must provide the lead before companies can be expected to do something. In reference to excessive packaging, the arguments that say it is health oriented are not always necessarily true and therefore this area deserves further study. A fundamental point is that for recycling and re-use to work, waste reduction must be achieved.

Question Period

It was a good brief especially with respect to education but what is the value of education if garbage containers are not available and what about the disgraceful situation caused by Dartmouth Natal Day?
A special force to clean up after Natal Day costs the taxpayers a lot of money.
While there are garbage containers on posts, they aren't emptied. The City has to be called to get them emptied.
Mayor Savage accepts what was said.
How will the pilot paper recycling project operate?
Over the past two years he has heard of the problem of nowhere to take paper for recycling. The three types of paper, corrugated (primarily industrial), newspaper (mainly household) and bond (commercial and government) represent about 40% of the City's garbage. Scotia Recycling, which will collect the newspaper, employs 11 people in Dartmouth. They have collected newspaper before when they could beat the regular garbage trucks. For the project, people will put their newspaper in separate containers at the curbside. While other surveys show only at 10-15% participation rate, he hopes this figure can be increased through public education. If curbside pick up is expanded to other projects, it may require financial assistance from the City, e.g. for boxes, etc. The City may make money due to a decrease in solid waste disposal costs. A provincial programme is needed to ensure a successful recycling programme.
What are your views on the enforcement of litter legislation?
Certain key areas of the City can be enforced using the new by-law. Education is necessary to reduce enforcement requirements. Education is the best approach.
The brief only refers to deposits on soda containers. Why not deposits on newspapers if paper products represent 40% of the garbage?
He doesn't have the solution.
Up to 70% of all waste can be paper, why not a deposit?
Who do you charge the deposit to? The damage from cans and broken glass colours our

view of the problem.

What type of container will be used for newspaper pick up?

A separate container may be too expensive. Maybe someone's, i.e. a corporation will donate special bags.

Audrey Manzer, Chairman
Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board
Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Additional Comments - She has often carried a potato chip bag for 20 minutes before she could find a garbage can. Her son works for City parks on beach clean up and he says soiled diapers are a problem. Yellow bands from newspaper bundles have been left in her driveway when the newspaper carrier opens the bundles. She recommended that the Task Force members speak to the people from the Dartmouth beach crews about litter.

Question Period

Everyone has brought up the bottle issue but bottles and cans only represent 6-7% of the problem.

It is not the percentage that counts but the danger from broken glass. Deposits are an obvious solution.

Task Force Comment - They remember when all containers were returnable glass bottles.

What about littering?

There should be fines for littering, including for dumping material in lakes. Rewards for doing well, recycling programmes and tax credits could be used to address littering.

What is a suitable fine?

At least $200.

What about the use of "blue angels" to mark environmentally acceptable

material?

Every opportunity should be used. People demand products be so fresh so packaging is used to satisfy consumer demand. Some companies do over-package and tell consumers what they want and the consumer believes it.

Will packaging changes alter the situation?

Curbside pick up is helping the problem. For people to do things, it must be made as easy as possible. "Don't" won't work if people aren't given a solution.

The "Keep America Beautiful" tries to encourage people to address the litter problem.

A positive approach is necessary.

Brad O'Connell
Society of N.S./P.E.I. Bottle Dealers & Recyclers

In 1987 the Nova Scotia Bottle Dealers were used as the base for a recycling project organized by the Nova Scotia Department of the Environment. They collected tons of glass and aluminum with the costs being minimal. Approximately $6,500. went towards advertising with the rest for freight to the places to sell. The association is disappointed that the Department is not providing any help this year.

There are thousands of tons of paper, glass and scrap metals now being recycled in Nova Scotia. Big things in recycling are coming up. When government sets up recycling programmes they should include the present operators rather than setting up something new. The association would like to see subsidies on equipment, space etc., perhaps in the form of low cost loans.

The Beverage Container Act requires that retailers of soft drinks display a balance of returnable and non-returnable containers. Brad O' Connell had taken photographs of pop shelves in outlets in the Sackville area and displayed these to the Task Force members. They showed only non-returnables at the Lawtons and Shopper Drug Mart outlets. The supermarkets have some returnables but far below the 50/50 mix.

Brad O'Connell recommended that by enforcing the present legislation there would then be a giant step towards reducing the litter problem. He also recommended that the Beverage Container Act be amended to prevent the sale of non-returnable and plastic containers (excepting aluminum cans); that a five cent deposit be placed on aluminum cans; that no steel cans be allowed to be used; that when the Act or rules are developed by government that they do not allow exceptions.

With regards to highway littering, fines should be increased to a $500 minimum and be enforced. O'Connell pointed out that deposits on a variety of containers in other parts of Canada is effective. If they are thrown away on the highway someone will return them. If a value is put on containers they will be kept out of the gutters.

Great strides will be made in recycling if we attack the large end of the problem i.e. the 52% of local landfill comprises of paper and cardboard. These products should be deferred. If one half could be taken out it will lengthen the life of landfills.

Brad O'Connell pointed out that many large supermarkets have garbage compactors that mix all wastes. If the cardboard was separated and baled this would help reduce a lot of the volume going to the landfill site. The breweries bale the majority of their cardboard which saves several tons from landfill. Recyclables should be kept out of landfill sites. If people won't separate, charge higher tippage fees if their waste contains recyclables.

Question Period

Who should police 50/50 law?

There are government rules though they are not being policed now.

There is some concern about grants to new companies rather than to supporting existing ones which may be putting those out of business. Would licensing be of interest?

Wouldn't want to set up a monopoly.

Regarding the photographs, many bottles looked like plastic. Is it a consumer preference? Are they recyclable?

Yes, but no one has set up a system in Nova Scotia at this time. The consumer is encouraged to buy two litres of non-recyclable pop now as it is priced at approximately the same as one litre of returnable.

Is the 52% of landfill in paper in weight or volume?

That's based on tons ... 35 million pounds of beer boxes are recycled each year in Nova Scotia.

How many aluminum cans are there in a ton?

There are 24 cans per pound.

Where is paper recycled?

In Hantsport ... There is also recycling going on in Debert.

What weight do bottles take up in a landfill site?

Bottles take up about 7%. Glass bottles are more of a litter problem than a landfill problem.

If non-returnable bottles are banned, what would this do for the bottle dealers' business?

We would probably do 10 to 20 tons more business.

We understand that recyclers cannot get enough cardboard yet supermarkets send it to landfill sites. Why don't the recyclers and the food stores get together?

This is not understandable. Just seems that some do and some don't.

Could people be fined for not having 50/50 mix of bottles in their stores?

Would think they should, but they aren't. They did at one time.

Does the law say that the bottle should be recyclable or not?

No.

General Comment - There should be more advertising to let people know that there are collectors of recyclables in the province.

Robin Rigby & Cindy Locke
Dartmouth

Script of verbal presentation in attached appendix.

Question Period

Why are you interested? What makes you different from other children?

We are interested in other things. Our Mum helps us. Other kids do throw things away, while some other kids ask for and collect bottles for recycling. We're just dedicated to our cause.

Do you make any money out of your recycling project?
We get one cent per pound for newspapers, two cents for Bond, and one cent for cardboard.

Do you get other kids involved?
Yes, other kids will give us stuff to recycle.

Have teachers spoken about recycling or littering?
They always tell you "Don't Litter". They never tell you why. We do not even have one garbage can in our neighbourhood. If kids were taught more about litter it would make a big change. Being told "not to litter" teaches us nothing.

What would encourage others to get involved?
A real lesson in school or get the parents to talk about it. There should be more advertising that appeals to kids. They will then tell their parents.

General Comment - One person in the audience commented that the school board had several phone books and they wished to recycle them. They could not get any help from the Ecology Action Centre but Robin and Cindy took them.

Robin and Cindy entertained the Task Force with a poem they had written the evening before to discourage littering. They sang it using "rap" rhythm.

Kathy Sutherland
Dartmouth Cleaner & Greener Campaign Committee
Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Question Period

Did you separate the litter collected into recyclables?
No, it was disposed of by the City of Dartmouth. We will consider this in future campaigns.

What would you like to see happen elsewhere?
Government should have a policy to buy recycled products or recyclable products. People want roadside litter bins at car level. In talking with the Dartmouth City Police they are

most concerned about cigarettes being thrown from cars. It would help if fines were increased to $500 for littering with offenders' names published in the paper. This could be a better deterrent.

I have a business in Dartmouth, but I was not aware of your programme.

The problem was the media. Several of the industrial park people were not aware. There definitely is a need to get more people informed.

You said that McDonalds assisted you with this campaign. Fast food contributes heavily to litter. Should they not be working on this all year round?

Yes, they most definitely are not doing enough. Children are the biggest asset to our clean up campaign. This is very good from the educational aspect.

General Comment - One individual from the audience suggested that special events should develop the clean way of life, that is a continuum to the theme set by the campaign. In applying for special event permits there should be a requirement for a certain number of disposal units dependent on the number of attenders.

There is an international convention that is presently being signed that will prevent ships' garbage being dumped at sea. Special facilities will have to be developed wharf side, to accept this garbage which ultimately will have an added pressure on garbage disposal sites. This should be taken into consideration when reviewing waste reduction programmes.

APPENDICES

Supporting Documents

DARTMOUTH

County of Halifax
Nova Scotia New Democratic Party
Halifax County - Bedford District School Board
City of Dartmouth
Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board
Society of N.S./P.E.I. Bottle Dealers and Recyclers
Robin Rigby and Cindy Locke
Dartmouth Cleaner and Greener Campaign Committee

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HALIFAX COUNTY PRESENTATION TO THE
NOVA SCOTIA TASK FORCE ON LITTER ABATEMENT

Tuesday, July 12, 1988, 2:15 p.m.

Dartmouth

On behalf of the Municipality of the County of Halifax, I want to express our appreciation for the opportunity of making a presentation on this very important matter - 'one that presents a serious problem for our Municipality and certainly the Province as a whole.

It becomes obvious that litter presents us with a major environmental problem and our constituents are increasingly expecting and demanding greater political intervention towards an improved and safe environment.

We feel it important to repeat the common knowledge that litter, particularly that litter which contains garbage content, becomes a spawning place for the growth of bacteria, the attraction of rodents, and relavent diseases.

In Halifax County we believe that revamped or new envionmental legislation is over due, but we are pleased to be able to participate at this critical point in time to contribute to the design of a cleaner lifestyle.

Quite often people refer to litter as that which we see on our roadways, roadsides, and public and private properties. It is true this is a common reflection of the litter problem, and it surely has a negative impact on our all-important tourist industry.

We believe that some very serious measures must be taken to try to gain control over the problem. In our preliminary discussions at the municipal level, we have talked about revamped legislation, agressive education programs, stiffer penalties, stricter policing responsibilities, and the application of responsibilities to both the consumer and the manufacturer.

Halifax County feels that the regulations governing the improper disposal of litter should be disseminated in the broadest possible manner so as to make our citizens more aware of the regulations and their intended impact.

We recognize that measures in terms of public education have been put in place over the past number of years, but we also recognize that we are a growing population and with the growth in the fast food industry, those efforts must be more strictly entrenched.

We would like to call upon an examination of fines being levied for littering. To date they do not appear to be a deterrent to the discarding of fast food packaging along the County roadways. One suggested penalty was $1,000, and that such penalties should be more aggressively passed throughout the Municipality and certainly thoughout the Province. For example, two Councillors recognize that in their districts no more than three signs exist which simply say "Do Not Litter". We believe the signs should clearly point out that littering is a violation of a specific by-law and that offenders are liable to fines of a maximum of $1,000.

In conjunction with the posting of these signs, we would ask policing authorities, which in our area is the RCMP, to step up their survalence activity so as to be more watchful for the littering offender.

Our Committee looking at litter abatement in Halifax County played with the idea, and felt that the idea had enough merit to be mentioned at today's presentation. That involves the suggestion of an environmental tax levied by the Province on the manufacturers of disposable products which are used to contain fast foods (paper, and plastic plates, boxes, napkins, etc.) Such a tax resource would be used for the recycling of products or the proper disposal of these products. Our Municipality has increasingly over the past number of years made overtures and presentations for the recycling of bottles and newspapers. Today we want to put forward our continued desire to see the Provincial government agressively put in place this kind of recycling operation.

We would like to see, in terms of controlling disposal procedures, a fee that would be charged at the time of purchase of bottles whether they be plastic or glass and that fee be returned to the consumer on return of the empty container. we believe that measure can go a long way towards abating the litter of non-reuseable bottles. We simply refer to the experience of the breweries who in the past few years aggressively offered money for the return of beer bottles. This has resulted in fewer beer bottles on the beaches and roadsides in Halifax County. These kinds of levies, we believe, have a healthy impact on the economy.

We mentioned greater responsibility being placed on the manufacturers of disposable fast food containers but we also believe that some responsibility should rest with the retailer. Without recommending the technical where-with-all to do this, we would like to see the plastic or paper container bearing a warning to the consumer that it is unlawful to litter and clearly outline the penalty of doing so. That responsibility has been directly placed in the hands of the consumer, so at this point has no excuse of not being aware of anti-litter legislation.

Before I go on, perhaps one other requirement could be placed upon the retailer and that requirement is to have properly marked and adequately located garbage disposal containers. Some of the more popular fast food outlets might be encouraged by an aggressive environmental program to provide litter bags for the motoring public, particularly where these fast food ventures employ the drive-thru service.

One major litter problem that we recognize in Halifax County comes about as a direct result of service provided by Canada Post. Commonly referred to a junk mail, it quite often ends up filling the ditches of our municipal communities where we have the green mailbox pick-up service. We believe it should be the responsibility of Canada Post to supply garbage recepticles clearly marked and weatherized where there are clusters of two or more green boxes, and again, appropriately placed notices of the littering by-law.

It is also a suggestion of ours that garbage recepticles should be placed at bus stops by the Metropolitan Authority and that municipalities should be more aggressive in placing garbage recepticles properly marked at its various public properties, such as parks, tot lots, and what have you.

We earlier gave credit for efforts to educate the public on litter and its impact on the environment, but we do see the need for on-going programs of this nature. We should place effective advertisements in local newspapers, community newsletters, and on radio and television.

Provision somehow must be provided in terms of our municipal garbage disposal service, to dispose of refrigerators, stoves, discarded furniture, such as chairs that are normally difficult to dispose of. One does not have to drive far in the countryside of Halifax County to find these items discarded in back roads, wooded trails, hiking trails, and in some cases rivers and streams. This is a direct result of compacting garbage trucks which would experience two areas of difficulty:

1) the necessary manpower to lift the heavy items onto the trucks, and

2) the incapability to compact these items with regular household garbage.

We suggest there should be specially created disposal areas whereby regular garbage collectors with open-backed vehicles would pick up these items on specified days or weeks thoughout the year, and these items could find themselves perhaps crushed and disposed of in the same manner as disposed-of derelict vehicles in the crusher process. This same exercise could be used to dispose of the car parts problem which has existed for too long.

We talked about finding "white furniture" in our back woods, but quite often one will find discarded clothing with this unsightly disposed of litter, and this clearly points us in the direction to call for the establishment of community clothing banks and/or material recycling businesses.

Time did not permit our committee to expand our thought process much more than what I have presented here today; however, we believe the points presented are profound points with inherent, profound resolutions that should help bring about some abatement of an out-of-hand litter problem that plagues everybody.

We want our tourists, no matter what part of the Province they come to visit, to go back with a good impression of a clean and healthy environment - one they would recommend to family and friends, an image that will create repeat business for what has truly become one of our most important industries.

Moreover we must do these things to provide a clean and healthy environment for our inhabitants because we believe it is the people we represent that are most important in the exercise of a better environment.

Maureen Vine

Joanne Lamey.

Submission by the Nova Scotia New Democrats
to the
Minister of the Environment's Task Force on Litter Abatement

Introduction

Canadian environmental legislation to date can be better characterized by the term "reactionary" than it can by "responsible leadership". Because "environment" falls under many different jurisdictions, legislation governing it has tended to be - in spite of 15 years experience - uneven, of varying effectiveness, complex and difficult to apply.

Nova Scotia New Democrats have resolved to address the real threat of approaching environmental crisis, and to demonstrate to the electorate that the NDP is politically committed to an environmental ethic as the basis for its participation in the common effort to avert such crises. This means working towards the goal of a society that functions in accordance with the principles of environmental accountability and ecologically sustainable development.

If we expect and accept environmental responsibility and accountability then government must put in place adequate infrastructure, legislation and programs. At this time we have to be critical of a government that, after ten years in power, has done so little to deal with the very horrendous environmental crisis we find ourselves having to deal with - hazardous wastes, acid rain, use of chemicals in agriculture and forestry, protection and wise management of all our natural resources and the destruction of the ozone layer.

In terms of government accountability we are concerned about the creation of quasi-governmental, quasi-private bodies such as The Clean Nova Scotia Foundation. Bodies with a mandate such as this one - "to achieve and maintain an aesthetically pleasing Nova Scotia for everyone's enjoyment" - adds to the confusion about who is responsible and accountable for what is happening to our environment.

At our 1988 Convention held this spring, New Democrats adopted a Statement of Environmental Philosophy and a Statement of Policy on Environmental Planning. These statements are generally applicable to government decision-making, including decisions on litter abatement and recycling. They are the basis of this submission to the Task Force.

We are pleased to have this immediate opportunity to discuss one aspect of New Democrats concerns for our environment.

Background

Development in our consumer society has proceeded without environmental accountability. Our economy has become dependent upon production of consumer materials that the public is urged to obtain. Then they are unwanted after minimal use or obsolete soon after production. Manufacturers have had relative freedom to:

* produce without regard to their own waste disposal,
* design for obsolence necessitating repurchase,
* utilize packaging methods that will sell goods but without regard as to their disposal and ultimate effect on our environment.

It is not surprising that our values tend to encourage arbitrary and indiscriminate disposal of all unwated materials.

Definitions

In order that we can address the problem of litter there need to be clear definitions. May we suggest this definition of litter - "Litter is any discarded manufactured or organic material not placed in a container designated for proper disposal".

Solutions to the Problem

We believe that the concept of environmental accountability and attitudes of environmentalism can be described intelligibly and instilled through education, and that a legitimate role of government is to foster the accelerated adoption of such attitudes.

Programs should be designed to reinforce the knowledge that humans are an inextricable part of a finite environmental web, and to counteract the components of culture which are responsible for the present course which has resulted in environmental degradation. With environmental awareness should come the collective willingness to bear the costs of environmental restoration through implementation of a range of programs.

Immediate action by the government is essential and Nova Scotia New Democrats propose the following:

Education & Awareness Programs

Starting at pre-school and elementary levels, environmental education should begin as a serious and important part of the curriculum. Education should continue through health and social studies courses to the completion of high school.

Courses should be developed in consultation with "experts" and environmental and community groups. They should not consist, simply, of once-a-year gimmicks wherein students go out and pick up litter and place it in specially designed garbage bags.

The provincial and federal departments of environment should sponsor ads that describe the extent of our environmental problems and what individuals and industries can do to prevent further destruction of our environment.

Prevention & Clean-up Programs

The government should facilitate the implementation of measures to encourage and provide appropriate incentives for waste reduction, re-use and recycling and to discourage littering. These might include:

1. installing well-marked waste bins at strategic locations along highways and in parks, picnic areas, beaches, etc.,
2. develop and implement a recycling strategy with citizen and industry participation, including the installation of recycling depots in strategic locations across the province,
3. provide households with special containers for recyclable materials and hazardous wastes, and arrange pick-up in conjunction with regular garbage collection programs,
4. require payment for re-useable materials such as carrying bags, boxes, hangers, etc., to encourage customers to provide their own,
5. implement non-polluting systems to recover materials and energy from waste for re-use,
6. encourage the continuing research and development of biodegradable ← packaging materials for a range of products from personal care to food,
7. require industries receiving public funds to undergo an "anti-litter test" that would point out ways industries could reduce or eliminate litter in their manufacturing or packaging processes,

8. challenge marketing and packaging firms to design and produce packaging adequate for product presentation and handling but which helps reduce litter,
9. implementation of programs to improve the environmental management of hazardous waste and landfill disposal systems,
10. implementation of policies to require provincial and municipal governments to meet litter abatement regulations or goals and to participate in recycling programs,
11. put in place programs to ensure adequate social services and employee or citizen compensation to cushion any adverse impacts of enforcing environmental standards (e.g. loss of jobs).

Regulation, Deterrence and Prevention

Of course there are those among us who will be "litterbugs" and there are businesses that will continue to operate in ways that are harmful to our environment. Measures need to include legislation, regulations and enforcement.

Legislation to ban the sale of beer, ale and carbonated soft-drink beverages in non-returnable containers needs to be passed. We need legislation to restrict packaging to essentials and the use of biodegradable and recyclable materials in packaging.

There needs to be an Investigations and Enforcement Branch of the Department of Environment, to plan and carry out compliance and effective monitoring programs. This branch would also enforce environmental laws by all appropriate means.

Conclusion

Nova Scotia New Democrats advocates incorporating environmental concerns into government social and economic decision-making at the provincial and municipal levels. It is within the power of a provincial government to ensure that good environmental administration is also good business and to foster the growth of environmental sensitivity and ethics.

SUBMISSION TO THE TASK FORCE

ON

LITTER ABATEMENT

BY

THE HALIFAX COUNTY - BEDFORD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

July 1988

The Problem

> "The use of convenient packaging, the philosophy of planned obsolescence, the proliferation of throw-away articles have been spurred by our rapidly expanding economy. Although the problem is not new, it has grown now to an extent where it is no longer the traditional local concern, but one receiving inter-community, regional, provincial and national attention. The forms of solid waste deposits have become an increasing economic burden, destroying the aesthetic quality of the environment, endangering public health and contributing to social unrest."

This quotation was taken from a consultant's report presented to a conference on pollution control engineers which was held over twenty years ago. Now more than twenty years after the conference, our problem has been magnified many times. Each year Canadians create more than 20 Million tons of garbage and in 1987 the tonnage of garbage showed an increase of 75 per cent since 1980. Not only is the quantity of garbage a problem but common substances such as plastic may not decompose for 100 years or more.

Litter is an insidious plague that has hit the 1980's in our communities with a vengeance. Never before has there been such a throw-away society. Litter is not only unsightly, it is a health hazard.

We have mismanaged our environment and we must pay. Some of us will pay with our livelihood, but all of us will pay through a lowering of our quality of life.

Pollution, in all its forms, can probably never be totally eradicated. Even if such a feat were technically possible, the financial strain it would exert upon government and industry would be economically unbearable. What must be done is to control the problem to the point that it no longer threatens our health, livelihood and leisure. Litter abatement will have costs, but the costs will be considerably less than the social and economic costs if the problems remain unchecked.

Responsibility for the Problem

When we carefully examine our litter problem, it is obvious that the responsibility does not rest entirely with industry, the public or government. We are all responsible, every one of us, for both the situation and the solution. We are responsible as individuals, parents, store owners, consumers, corporate groups and educators. In whatever ways we interact in society we have a duty to be informed, aware, and responsible for our actions and our attitudes concerning our environment. The situation exists because we have not done enough to prevent it, and the solution is only possible through the concerted efforts of everyone working together. It must be a two part effort. One component must be to address the problems that have already occurred, and the other is to prevent increasing future difficulties.

We each have a personal as well as a societal responsibility regarding this problem. We are responsible for our actions on a personal basis, for litter we have distributed, for non-recyclable containers we have purchased, for litter we have not picked up. We are also responsible on a higher level. We have not acted responsibly in insisting on better environmental protection, more recyclable materials, stiffer penalties, better enforcement of by-laws and regulations. It is necessary to make ourselves and others more aware of what has been happening and what it will mean for the future if these concerns are not seriously addressed.

Recommended Solution to the Problem

If we agree that we all share responsibility for the problem, then we all must contribute to the solution. The Halifax County - Bedford District School Board has accepted some responsibility and at its June 15th Meeting, agreed to take immediate action to help free our school environments of litter.

The School Board has established five objectives for immediate action:

1. To use paper and paper products more effectively and efficiently. Paper will be copied on both sides and all schools will be encouraged to collect paper for recycling.
2. Sufficient receptacles will be provided on all school properties.
3. Students, staff and visitors who use school facilities will be expected to assume greater responsibility for keeping their environment litter free.
4. Appropriate educational programs will be provided for all students in an effort to emphasize the importance of our environment, and the effects of pollution. Suitable programs will be provided as part of the regular course offering.
5. Examine methods to provided appropriate incentives to individual students, schools or student councils to keep their environment litter free. Among the suggested incentives were essay contests, recognition by awarding plaques and certificates, science fair awards and financial incentives for student councils.

We recognize that our contribution as a school system can have a significant impact on the environment in and around our schools, but in order to control the problem provincially we require that legislation be enacted, strengthened and enforced. Above all, there is need of a comprehensive, long term educational program.

The Halifax County - Bedford District School Board knows that many well documented presentations will address the need to provide new legislation to replace the outdated Beverage Containers Act (1978). We strongly urge that legislation be created which bans non-returnable bottles, promotes re-usable containers and increases recycling. At the 1988 Annual Conference of the Nova Scotia School Boards Association and the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities, resolutions were passed in support of the use of returnable containers. It is therefore not our intention to restate positions that have already been presented often and forceably.

Legislation by itself will have very little impact if there is not the will and ability to have adequate enforcement. Provincial and municipal departments that are responsible for litter abatement must have sufficient staff and the necessary support to enforce the legislation. Penalties must be appropriate to serve as a deterrent. As a School Board we believe that any litter abatement program must have as its primary objective the changing of public attitude. Any significant and lasting changes will only occur as a result of a comprehensive educational program. It is in this area that we feel competent to address the Minister of Environment's Task Force on Litter Abatement.

Legislation by itself cannot solve our litter problems if the public does not fully understand the causes of the problem, the environmental impact associated with litter and the role that they can

We are recommending that the Department of Education develop appropriate curriculum guides and curriculum materials which will enable teachers to integrate a litter abatement program as part of regular science, social studies and language arts programs. In addition to the instructional programs we believe that awareness can be promoted by offering students and schools incentive awards such as plaques, essay prizes, science fair awards.

We opened our presentation quoting from a conference held twenty years ago. The warnings from that conference have not been taken seriously. In 1988 conferences on environmental issues are emphasizing that our production of litter has been growing rapidly and scientists are finding that landfill sites are often centers of carcinogenic dioxins. Norway's Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, Chairman of the World Commission on Environment and Development states is a recent publication, "We must come to see that many of our current approaches add up to a sort of piracy against our children that a truly civilized world can no longer afford to tolerate."

Litter is a problem created by everyone, and one that can only be controlled by the collective willingness of all. As a School Board we will implement our litter abatement objectives, beginning in September 1988. We hope to create an awareness of the problem, develop a commitment to improve our environment and undertake programs to keep our schools as litter free as possible. We realize that our efforts will be modest, but if all Nova Scotians accept the challenge our gains will be significant and long-lasting.

On behalf of the Halifax County - Bedford District School Board, we thank you for the opportunity to appear before you, we wish you success, and we offer our support in creating a cleaner and healthier environment in Nova Scotia.

play in overcoming the problem. We do not believe that at the present time the public has sufficient information to cause changes in attitude that will eventually change their behaviour. We are therefore recommending a comprehensive, long-term education program. The program would have three objectives:

1. To develop public awareness of the impact of litter on our quality of life.
2. To cause changes in behaviour that will contribute to a litter free environment.
3. To provide an awareness and understanding of federal, provincial and municipal legislation that is in place to make our environment litter free.

We see the need of a long term program which will have an initial five year plan. The program need not be provided totally by any level of government and the costs associated with such a program can be assumed by many organizations, departments, or businesses in our communities. We also believe that if an educational program is to be effective we must use all the available media in the community.

It is recommended that a provincial committee composed of representatives from government, industry and environmental organizations be established to develop a comprehensive educational program to achieve the above stated objectives. The committee would also recommend means by which the program could be financed by government and business.

The Halifax County - Bedford District School Board believes that public school education is one of the most powerful tools that we possess in Nova Scotia. In the long term a litter abatement program that is part of our regular school program will have the greatest potential to achieve lasting results.

Mayor John Savage.

SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS TASK FORCE ON LITTER ABATEMENT

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Chairperson, Members of the Task Force, Ladies and Gentlemen

There is no question that we live in the throw away society, that far from improving is getting worse. I see now that disposable cameras are being advertized and we always had the problem with pop containers, lighters and the many thousands of other disposables. This disposable philosophy is creating serious environmental and cost crisis in the waste management field and it is becoming painfully obvious that our existing strategies for the management of waste are totally unsatisfactory. Litter abatement is a significant part of the waste management field and since all aspects of the waste stream from production to final disposal are closely related it can not be examined in isolation.

This submission will outline the City of Dartmouth's involvement in various aspects of waste management, and it will discuss some of the areas that the City believes the Task Force should investigate, which are critical to success waste management and litter abatement.

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WASTE MANAGEMENT IN DARTMOUTH

Dartmouth has always taken an interest in waste management. The City provides the usual weekly curbside refuse collection to all residential units, and industrial and commercial waste collection is done through private arrangements between the producer and collection company. The City disposes of its refuse at the Regional Landfill in Mount Uniacke via the Dartmouth Transfer Station. The transportation and disposal of this waste is administered by the Metro Regional Authority. We understand that in 1987, the City of Dartmouth, disposed of approximately 75,000 tons of waste. This is rising and it is expected unless changes are made in the production of waste the landfill area will be used up by 1994.

In the area of hazardous waste management, although a regional problem, there is a special significance for Dartmouth. Industry in Dartmouth not only produces the largest amount of hazardous waste in the Metropolitan area, it also produces the largest quantity of waste that is presently improperly disposed of. Due to the lack of appropriate treatment facilities and disposal methods, much of this hazardous waste is disposed of in the sewer which out-falls into Tufts Cove while some of it is either stored on the generators premises or near by locations. In 1986 as a result of the Porter Dillon study on hazardous waste in the metropolitan area and the establishment of the Ministers Task Force on the subject,

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Dartmouth citizens, businesses from Dartmouth, City staff, The Chamber of Commerce and City Council conducted serious debates on various aspects of the hazardous waste problem and there were numerous submissions to the Task Force. The City submitted a report which we believe shows leadership, foresight, and a determination to act to solve our problems. One of our recommendations was that a resource center with the responsiblity for management for hazardous waste be established in the Metropolitan area. This recommendation was endorsed by the task force and will become one of the key elements in the regions solution to the management of this waste. We continue to encourage the province to establish this facility as soon as possible.

More directly related to litter abatement, the City has regularly conducted and supported litter collection. Our Works Department and Parks and Recreation Department as part of their normal operation, collect and dispose of litter. Numerous private citizens, groups, cubs and scouts and other civic organizations conduct clean up campaigns. From time to time private citizens on their own have got together and collected litter from various areas of the City. Our Cleaner is Greener campaign also involves City staff in providing materials and picking up and disposing of collected litter. In 1968 the City inacted by-law #C119 which prohibited the littering of streets and public places. However we were unable to enforce this until the act to amend Chapter 43A of the Acts of 1978, The Dartmouth City Charter, was passed in the

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House of Assembly this year. As a result of these changes the City can now require the owner and occupier of real property, to remove rubbish, refuse or other discarded material or things from the part of the sidewalk and gutter which abuts or is in front of, or on the same side of the street, as the real property; with power to designate in the resolution or by-law, one or more areas of the City inwhich the by-law or the resolution applies. This means for the first time we will have some teeth in our own by-laws and at least we can enforce them.

The main thrust of our proposal today however is that all the ideas, processes and suggestions for dealing with litter are in fact coming at it from the wrong end. As a physician I can positively state that this is treating the symptom and not the disease. The analogy is treating the boil on the buttock of the diabetic. To treat the boil in the diabetic is important but it is far more important to treat the diabetes.

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The City's most recent and significant action which will positively affect our litter problem, is the City's endorsation of the four R's of waste management.

Waste Reduction
Waste Reuse
Waste Recycling
Waste Recovery

Specifically, it is anticipated that the City will begin with Waste Recycling. The City's leadership role in this area may very well begin this evening and you will have a preview of it here. Tonight, City Council will be debating a staff report that we have commissioned on Recycling, in which one recommendation is that a pilot project for newspaper recycling be initiated in the area of the City of Dartmouth in September, 1988, and also that the City participate in the Metropolitan Authority study towards Solid Waste reduction and Recycling on a regional basis. It is our intention to look at full scale recycling in the future and this pilot project will

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indicate that it can be done and that municipalities do have a responsibility to act instead of just following when Provincial and Federal governments create policies. We have a responsibility to create policies and we have a responsibility to deliver on them.

The City has also recently began examining purchasing policies in order to determine ways to reduce our waste production. We will also be approaching the various fast food outlets and other businesses that produce so much material in our area to encourage their assistance in litter control. We hope to encourage companies who dispose of recyclable material to begin recycling programs themselves.

AREA TO ADDRESS IN LITTER ABATEMENT

There are two conditions necessary to create litter and its associated problems.

First, there must be an inexpensive disposable waste product with no market value with which to litter.

Second, there must be someone to do the littering.

Litter abatement must therefore be directed towards not only lessening the material with which to litter but also towards reducing the opportuniies for people to litter.

The possibilities of waste reduction are major. As a society we are obsessed with excessive packaging, producing, producing large amounts of unnecessary waste. Governments, along with industry, must examine this complicated subject and develop new packaging strategies with consideration for waste reduction.

Recycling is a major necessity if we are to solve our waste management problems. Governments can be instrumental in getting recycling programs started by developing markets or establishing funding for recycling programs. This is particularly where the Provincial government can lead.

Returnable and/or reuseable packages is a major area which affects the production of litter. Non-returnable soda containers, for example, are a major contributor to the litter problem.

Governments should require that industries, if not using reuseable packaging, at least use a deposit system for returning the packages. The City of Dartmouth is strongly in favor of the returnable bottle or deposit concept.

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Public education is another major area. The City of Dartmouth believes that many people who litter do so simply as a habit and the belief that many feel, in that they are not part of the problem. Many people feel powerless in this area and so do not feel that they have anything to add to the solution.

We believe that this is totally incorrect. We believe that with an appropriate and continual educational package, the general public will provide a very positive attitude towards litter control and the protection of our environment. The educational system can and should pay a significant role in public education and this is an area that I am sure will merit close coordination with the school system. In conclusion we feel it is important for governments to provide incentive programs, policies, legislation, education programs and leadership to get litter abatement, and over all, waste reduction systems, established.

Governments will need to look at policy and legislation changes necessary to achieve waste reduction. If we do not start looking at achieving waste reduction then all our attempts at recycling and reuse will not work. It is important that we look at legislation on the returnable beverage containers, establishing purchasing policies favorable to waste reduction or recycled material, requiring industry to use a certain percentage of recycled materials and encouraging manufacturers to improve packaging. Instead of continually chopping down more and more trees we should be insisting that manufacturers use more and more recycled paper

These are but a few of many areas that the City is interested in and they do relate to litter control. The City of Dartmouth is pleased that you have started in our City and we are willing to take a leadership role in the whole area of waste management.

John Savage
Mayor

July 12, 1988

DLAB
DARTMOUTH LAKES ADVISORY BOARD

SUBMISSION TO THE TASK FORCE ON LITTER ABATEMENT

July 12, 1988

The Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board is a volunteer group, which acts in an advisory capacity to Dartmouth City Council on any matters which affect the condition, water quality, access and aesthetics of the lakes and waterways of Dartmouth. Its membership includes representatives nominated by recreational organizations making use of and having an interest in the lakes (of which Dartmouth has 23), volunteer expertise from the several scientific institutions in the city, and other areas such as the legal profession, planners and developers, a representative from the City Engineering Department and two members of City Council.

The Board has gained considerable experience in dealing with public concerns, since its inception seventeen years ago, including the coordination of many clean-up projects around the lakes and public education on the care which must be taken to preserve the lakes and waterways for future generations.

Although the main thrust of the Board's work over the years has been the mitigation of damage to the lakes and waterways from construction activity in the watersheds and the accompanying disturbance of the ground cover, cutting of trees, erosion and siltation, etc. it has always considered that part of any lake protection and preservation program must be consideration of the aesthetics of the area. This would, of course, include clean-up of any litter from the construction phase, as well as subsequent litter reduction efforts and ideally, prevention of litter accumulation.

The Lakes Advisory Board, through its interest in the preservation of marshes throughout the city, has spent considerable time in

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observing these natural filtration and retention mechanisms. Its a real eye-opener! Marshes throughout the city are littered with old bicycles, tires, shopping carts, refrigerators, paper, plastic packages, car parts, etc., etc. During many lake bottom clean-ups undertaken by scuba divers or done when lake levels have been lowered, the same sort of junk has been revealed, INCLUDING the kitchen sink! People seem to have the idea that once a piece of junk sinks beneath the water, it has gone from the face of the earth. There is ample evidence that their thinking is quite wrong.

Many citizens of the community are willing to undertake clean-up projects, if someone will organize it. We have found that setting a time, day and place, with a specific area to be cleaned up, and getting the city to supply garbage bags and offering to haul them away when full, is a very effective plan. This is, of course, the short term solution only. There is a great need to address the long-term picture through such mechanisms as public education, general waste reduction in packaging,and recycling.

The best place to start with public education is with children. Getting children to think automatically before they throw litter is where the real breakthrough is made. Informed and educated children will take that mental set home with them and correct their parents, in many cases. Working through organizations to which children belong, is also an effective way of addressing the problem of getting the message across. The YMCA's and YWCA's, the many levels of the Scouting and Guiding movements, the Canoe Clubs, baseball and soccer teams, to name a few, are a good place to instill the anti-littering mental set. A few years ago, I organized several clean-up projects at Banook Canoe Club, whereby the children paddled war canoes up to the islands in Lake Micmac, and had a fun time of cleaning up garbage bags full of broken

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bottles, paper and general litter. They had a swimafterwards, a picnic lunch, their pictures in the paper and the satisfaction of having the islands where they were often taken for a swim or an overnight campout after a hard canoe practise, once again restored to a safe and clean area. By making it fun and by obtaining some good and practical results, the clean-up project sent the children a lot of good messages. The "Adopt-a-Stream" program is another good example. This has been used by the Scouts in many places, and entails, among other things, a shoreline clean-up along the "adopted" stream, and acts as an anti-littering awareness program for the youth who are involved. Any educational program is, however, of little use if there are insufficient garbage containers in public places - there is no point in training the public to stop littering, if it is made difficult for them to carry it through!

The whole area of packaging must be addressed. One of the major sources of litter is in the over-packaging which is so prevalent today. Most food products and snacks are covered in layers of paper, plastic and other instant littering materials. It is amazing to see a large, covered styrofoam box from McDonald's, for instance, and inside, occupying perhaps one-quarter of the space, some small item of food, like a sausage and an egg. We have become such a snacking and instant food society, compared to the days when most food was consumed in the home, that the problem of litter has become an overwhelming one. Biodegradable containers, and a reduction in the amount of packaging would be a good place to combat the problem of littering.

Recycling is a very obvious part of the solution. This goes a long way beyond litter abatement and gets into the area of the squandering of non-renewable resources. Recycling thus accomplishes many things. Non-returnable containers, especially bottles for drinks, undoubtedly contribute a large percentage

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of the litter in public places, to say nothing of the staggering amounts of garbage being deposited in landfill sites and local dumps. Society must come to terms with the fact that we cannot keep using the earth's resources and throwing out the products made from them at the present rate or we are going to be in big trouble in the forseeable future!

To return to the experience of the Lakes Advisory Board, it must be pointed out that construction sites are among the major sources of litter. We have observed that some builders are very responsible in keeping the construction site as clean as possible, while others leave a mess of plastic and paper materials lying about, to be eventually blown into woods, fields and marshes.

Legislation to back up all the litter abatement concepts must be put in place, with fines of sufficient magnitude to provide a real deterrant, and a commitment on the part of all levels of government to see that the legislation is enforced. Many people will respond to education programs, many are already anti-litter conscious, but a very large segment of the population will only help with the solution if legislated to do so.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the government officials responsible for the establishment of this Task Force and to wish you well in your series of public meetings and your deliberations after hearing from the citizens of Nova Scotia. The Dartmouth Lakes Advisory Board heartily endorses the work of the Clean Nova Scotia Foundation - it is an excellent start at addressing a problem which we have long observed.

Audrey E.Manzer,
Chairman.

N.S. & P.E.I. Bottle Dealers & Recyclers

Brad O'Connell
N.S. & P.E.I. Bottle Dealers & Recyclers
865-9010

In 1987 Clean N.S. Week, $15,000 was spent on subsidizing glass freight and aluminum can freight and advertising depots to take glass bottles and aluminum cans in various areas of Nova Scotia. This was the beginning of a clean Nova Scotia.

This was followed up in 1988 with nothing. Zero dollars. But $100,000 to $200,000 will be spent to study litter.

The N.S. and P.E.I. Bottle Dealers & Recyclers feel that part of this $100-$200,000 could have been spent on a project similar to 1987 Clean Nova Scotia week (first week in June).

Is the Task Force aware of present recyclers in Nova Scotia? There are many of the bottle dealers who are also recycling as well as recyclers in metals, paper and cardboard. These present recyclers are business people and must make a profit to survive. A government sponsored awareness program of present recyclers in Nova Scotia would be a first step.

In developing recycling and recycling depots in Nova Scotia the government should use local recyclers where available. Present recyclers could expand present operations with government grants, subsidies or equipment subsidies or equipment assistance. "DO NOT" set up a government sponsored recycling depot in the proximity of an existing recycler. "DO" offer established recycler the same assistance and subsidy as you would in an area where no recycler is presently established.

Recycling is presently being done in Nova Scotia but recycling is expensive but garbage is also expensive.

Recommendations of N.S. & P.E.I. Bottle Dealers & Recyclers to Container Act

1. Enforce present Act in sale of soft drinks and display of products. Act states 50 per cent non-returnable to 50 per cent returnable on shelf and in mass display.

This is not enforced AT ALL. This rule should be enforced immediately and this would serve as an interim measure while the Act is rewritten.

2. Eliminate non-returnable and plastic pop bottles leaving returnable and aluminum cans only.
3. A five cents deposit on all aluminum soft drink containers and a five cents deposit on all beer cans in aluminum. NO STEEL CANS.
4. No exceptions to these rules for any reason, e.g. company now with only non-returnable soft drink containers must immediately market fifty per cent in returnable containers. NO EXCEPTIONS.
5. Road litter and fines - add one zero - minimum fine $500. for littering. Then enforce rule vigorously.
6. Deposit on wine and liquor containers of thirty cents.

Recycling and reduction of landfill volumes

Attack commercial garbage first. 52% of Halifax County landfill for example is paper and cardboard (25%). If 40% of this could be deferred in this case a reduction of 20% of volume in landfill would result and 50,000 tons of garbage would be deferred from landfill. Millions of trees would be saved and many jobs created to recycle paper and cardboard.

1. We recommend a penalty of $20-$25 a ton to dump recyclables in landfill or transfer station.
   OR
   Not allow them to dump recyclables in landfill or transfer stations, e.g. compactors 95-98% cardboard.
2. Initiation of a deferral fee to recycler of $15-$20 per ton for all recyclables - glass, steel, copper, aluminum, lead, batteries, paper, cardboard, etc. This fee to be paid by municipality in county recycler does business.

PRESENTATION TO THE MINISTER'S TASK FORCE ON LITTER ABATEMENT

FINLAY COMMUNITY CENTRE, DARTMOUTH NOVA SCOTIA

JULY 12, 1988

INTRODUCTION

WE ARE CINDY LOCKE AND ROBIN RIGBY OF NORTH DARTMOUTH

FOR THE PAST 10 MONTHS WE HAVE BEEN RECYCLING NEWSPAPER AND BOND FROM OVER TWENTY HOUSEHOLDS ON FIVE STREETS IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE TASK FORCE FOR ALLOWING US TO MAKE THIS PRESENTATION TO YOU AND TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO ARE HERE TONIGHT

BODY

WHILE WE HAVE BEEN COLLECTING NEWSPAPER, CARDBOARD AND BOND FROM OUR NEIGHOURHOOD IN DARTMOUTH AND TWO OFFICES IN HALIFAX. WE HAVE NOTICED THAT MUCH MORE PAPER COULD BE RECYCLED AND MANY MORE THINGS COULD BE REUSED OR RECYCLED.

WE KNOW THAT HERE IN NOVA SCOTIA RETURNABLE POP AND BEER BOTTLES, GLASS, ALUMINUM CANS, DIFFERENT KINDS OF CARDBOARD, NEWSPAPER, BOND, COMPUTER PAPER, TELEPHONE BOOKS, LEAD, COPPER, BRASS, DIFFERENT KINDS OF BATTERIES, CAR OIL, SOME KINDS OF STEEL, AND CAST IRON CAN ALL BE RECYCLED, BUT IT IS NOT EASY FOR PEOPLE TO TAKE MANY OF THESE THINGS TO PLACES FAR AWAY. WE THINK THAT PEOPLE WOULD RECYCLE MORE THINGS IF IT WAS EASY FOR THEM TO TAKE THERE THINGS TO PLACES WHICH ACCEPT THEM. SOME PLACES ACCEPT ONLY ONE OR TWO DIFFERENT MATERIALS. SOMETIMES THERE ARE ONLY ONE TO TWO PLACES IN THE WHOLE PROVINCE THAT ACCEPT SOMETHING.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT EVERYONE HAS A CHANCE TO KNOW WHAT CAN BE RECYCLED AND THE PLACES TO TAKE THESE MATERIALS. DURING ENVIRONMENT WEEK 1987 WE READ THAT THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT HAD GIVEN AWARDS TO THREE YOUNG PEOPLE FROM HALIFAX WHO HAD BEEN COLLECTING NEWSPAPERS AND SELLING THEM TO SCOTIA RECYCLING. WE REALIZED THAT MANY PEOPLE IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD HAD NEWSPAPERS DELIVERED TO THEM. LAST SEPTEMBER WE ASKED THE PEOPLE ON THE NEAREST FIVE STREETS IF THEY WOULD LIKE US TO PICK UP THEIR NEWSPAPERS SO WE COULD RECYCLE THEM AND 23 OF THEM SAID YES. WE PICK THE PAPERS UP EVERY SATURDAY MORNING. WE TAKE THESE PAPERS AND NEWSPAPERS WHICH OTHER HOUSEHOLDERS WHO LIVE FURTHER AWAY PLUS NEWSPAPERS AND BOND FROM THE TWO OFFICES; to SCOTIA RECYCLING ABOUT ONCE EVERY TWO WEEKS. EACH LOAD IS ABOUT 500 POUNDS OF PAPER.

WE ARE INTERESTED IN RECYCLING BECAUSE WE THINK THAT IT MAKES SENSE TO REUSE MATERIALS WHICH CAN BE RECYCLED SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO USE COMPLETELY NEW RESOURCES EACH TIME - PAPER IS MADE FROM TREES AND WE BELIEVE THAT EACH TIME WE TAKE A LOAD OF NEWSPAPER TO SCOTIA RECYCLING WE ARE HELPING THE PAPER INDUSTRY TO REUSE SOME PAPER THAT IS ALREADY MADE UP AND THEREFORE THEY ARE ABLE TO MAKE MORE PAPER WITH FEWER TREES BEING CUT DOWN.

WE THINK RECYCLING IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE OUR POPULATION IS ALWAYS GROWING AND WE ALWAYS NEED TO USE RESOURCES LIKE PAPER, GLASS, IRON AND STEEL, AND OIL. THE MORE RESOURCES WE USE THE LESS THERE IS LEFT FOR US TO USE - WE THINK THAT WE SHOULD TRY AND RECYCLE, OR ACTUALLY REUSE MATERIALS WHEN CAN.

CONCLUSIONS

WE SUGGEST THAT WAYS ~~AND~~ TO MAKE RECYCLING EASIER SHOULD BE EXPLORED. WE THINK THAT PEOPLE ARE INTERESTED IN RECYCLING AND WOULD TAKE PART IN PROGRAMMES THAT PROVIDE PLACES TO TAKE MATERIALS TO PROVIDE OR PICK UP SERVICES THAT WOULD COLLECT SUCH MATERIALS.

THANK YOU

PROVINCIAL TASK FORCE ON LITTER ABATEMENT

JULY 12, 1988

"SUGGESTIONS ON CONTROL OF LITTER"

Presented by: Kathy Sutherland
Representative of Dartmouth Cleaner
and Greener Campaign Committee - 1988

Good evening. My name is Kathy Sutherland and I have been chosen to represent the Dartmouth Cleaner and Greener Campaign Committee of 1988. Our committee was made of a representative from each of our five wards, a public relations person, Mel Larsen of Clean Nova Scotia Foundation, Jim Connors from Dartmouth School Board, Debbie Kay representing McDonalds' Restaurants and from the Department of Parks and Recreation - John Charles and his assistant, Andrew Cox. Gloria MacCluskey and Barrie MacFarlane were our chairpersons.

The Cleaner and Greener Campaign was sponsored by Dartmouth City Council, McDonalds' Restaurants, Tim Horton Donuts, Parks and Recreation and the City Engineering Department. McDonalds' Restaurants gave a $2,500.00 grant and City Engineering supplied garbage bags and gloves at an approximate value of $700.00 and also 4 men on overtime to pick up the collected garbage. Local Tim Hortons outlets donated donuts for the day of our community pick-up.

Our first meeting was held May 11th with two subsquent meetings prior and one wrap-up meeting after our campaign. The nature of our meetings were to organize a concentrated effort in the clean up of litter in our city. Two target dates were set: Schools were to pick up on Friday, June 10th and a general community pick up on Saturday, June 11th. With the grant provided by McDonald's Restaurants, a bounty of 25¢ per bag of garbage was rewarded and coupons redeemable for burgers and fries for the children. McDonald's also supplied balloons and orange drink for the day of the campaign. Money earned from the bag bounty was generally given to schools and community groups. It was a fun event but at the same time a community service was being done and the children were understanding some of the consequences of littering.

Most of us think of littering as throwing a paper here and there but what came out of this campaign for example were: rugs, mattresses, shopping carts, car parts and a large amount of glass. The number of bags collected was approximately 2000 by approximately 2000 people. This was a dramatic increase over the previous years. It was felt by the Committee that next year earlier meetings would give us more time to make the public aware of our campaign and result in a even larger turnout.

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In the course of our meetings, ideas and concerns about litter abatement were voiced by everyone. It is my hope that this presentation will fairly represent the issues brought forward by the Dartmouth Cleaner and Greener Committee members.

(1) Media

In working with the Dartmouth Cleaner and Greener Committee, we found media interest in our campaign to be weak. We believed that with more media interest and support, our campaign would had have been tremendously larger and more successful. Without a doubt, the media shirked in its responsibility to inform the people of our community of a positive step being taken in combating our litter problem. At this time, I would like to thank Dartmouth Cable TV 10 and the Mail-Star for their support. In future we hope that this will appeal to the media as a more newsworthy event.

(2) Recycling

In average terms, the components of recyclable waste is, by weight: Paper products 40.50%, Metals 5-10% and Glass 5-10%. Our landfill receives approximately 1 ton of waste per year for every man, woman and child living in Halifax, Dartmouth, Bedford and Halifax County. Reducing the amount of waste by recycling will give longer life to landfill sites, which we know are very costly. At a cost of 10 million dollars, the Highway 101 Landfill site's expected close out will be 1994. The next landfill will cost considerable more. Waste reduction also saves in the cost of collecting and transporting waste to the landfill site.

There are many existing markets available for recycled materials. It is up to the senior government to search out and develop such markets. Government policy should be such, that a certain percentage of materials purchased by them be of recycled materials. Recycling should be mandatory by municipalities and industries. The State of Maryland had set a goal that by 1985, 40% of their paper stock would be from recycled paper. They have met and passed their goal. Aluminum cans should have a deposit placed on them. Provincial department should give grants to help litter abatement programs and to educate people on the pluses of recycling. In summary,

.../3

governments must start to pass the necessary laws to make recyling and revise and attractive alternative to landfilling.

(3) Garbage Containment

One of the recommendations of the Dartmouth Cleaner and Greener was that more containers for refuse be made available throughout the city. Many of our containers today are impractical and outdated. Research should be done in finding more efficient garbage containers that are better suited to todays type of litter and our growing population. It was also suggested that new municipal by-laws be passed so that any major outdoor or indoor events be required to have a specific amount of containers according to the number of people expected to attend.

(4) Fines and Enforcement

In effectiveness against people littering, our present system of fines and enforcement does not work. For the year of 1987, Dartmouth City Police charged one person with littering under the Motor Vehicle Act and no one under the city by-law. Statistics for provincial charges were not available as there is no provincial litter act stature, as in other provinces. To make the message of the seriousness of pollution through littering work, fines have to be raised and stringently enforced.

In conclusion, we have to say that litter on a whole has become a serious problem and with this task force we hope government will finally take a step towards improved methods of dealing with it.

Schedule of Presentations

TRURO

July 13, 1988

Domglas Inc.
Big 8 Beverages
N.S. Federation of Agriculture
Ms. Lynn Curwin-Porteous
Reverend Stokoe

Brian Howell, Sales Manager
Domglas Inc.

Brian initially expressed his views as a member of the glass manufacturing industry. Domglas has been operating in Canada for 75 years and has had a plant in Atlantic Canada since 1969. It currently employs 275 full time people and is considered a major employer. Whereas other jurisdictions in North America have been aggressive in approaching litter and beverage container programmes, he appreciates the Nova Scotia approach as indicated by the Task Force discussion/issue paper. The plant in Scoudouc, New Brunswick has been recycling glass since 1969 and the company is committed to resolving the current litter and solid waste problems. On the subject of "over packaging" he says that, with a few exceptions, it is the consumer who is demanding the current packaging. A concern for the industry is the sensational of certain problems, e.g. when Anne Murray cut her foot on a piece of glass, certain glass containers came under intensive scrutiny. The company hopes that it will be given fair consideration if the government amends or introduces legislation. It is important that new legislation take into account potential future changes in packaging. He cited examples of the trend toward on-site mixing of beverages and dispensing them in cups and the switch from bottles and cans to plastic containers which is expected to take place soon in Cape Breton. Other examples of packaging changes include beer in plastic containers and "beer sausages", pressurized plastic bag containers for draft beer. The packaging industry trend is toward minimizing packaging. If one company does it, other companies will follow suit in a competitive manner if it reduces production costs. In this way the solid waste issue is being addressed, e.g. non-refillable 300 and 500 ml glass bottles weight 20% less than they did 5 years ago. In addition, industries encourage the recycling of aluminum glass, plastic and paper and are continuing to look at various ways to recycle materials.

REGULATIONS - Regulations should not penalize a specific industry or market for two reasons:
1. It is unfair, and;
2. It provides an impetus to circumvent regulations which in turn take a long time to change.

For example, Prince Edward Island banned non-refillable containers for carbonated beverages but non-refillable containers can be used for non-carbonated beverages, i.e. juice which is classified as a food. This raises the question of how much juice content is necessary to classify a product as a food. In Saskatchewan, no non-returnable bottles can be used for carbonated beverages but New York Seltzer managed to circumvent the regulations. Juices are also becoming more of a beverage with the Tetrapak box (drinking box) more widely available. Regulations on packaging does not reduce litter, it only changes the mix of litter components.

He feels it is a people problem not a packaging one. The litterers are comprised of two types: people who think littering is inconsequential and anti-social people. Solutions include changing attitudes and cleaning litter up. This can be accomplished through education, incentives or legislation or a combination of all three with the emphasis in that order.

There is a consumer demand for glass. In Nova Scotia about 100,000,000 million units of glass are used each year. This includes everything from juice to wine. It weighs about 25,000 tons with a value of $15,000,000. Clear glass constitutes about 85% of the total and amber and green representing 15-20%. Glass is about 8% of household waste and all 25,000 tons could be recycled economically as long as a glass plant exists in the Maritimes. Glass is environmentally acceptable and is comprised of 59% sand, 18% soda ash, 17% limestone and 6% additives. It takes about 5,000,000 BTU's of energy to produce a ton of new glass. Recycled glass is economically essential for making new glass and Domglas' current problem is finding sufficient cullet. They do purchase cullet from as far as New York for this reason. Benefits from the plant being located in Scoudouc include 275 full time jobs and industrial spin offs.

Domglas has reduced the weight of the glass container. The 300 ml bottle used to weight 6 1/4 oz. and is now 5 3/4 oz. and will soon be 4 3/4 oz. The 500 ml bottle used to weigh 9 oz. and now is 7 3/4 oz. with an ongoing change to 7 oz. Domglas is encouraging recycling and announced last week a 30% increase in what they will pay for cullet. The price is now $80 per ton for clean amber and clear glass. Virgin glass costs $85 per ton to produce. Domglas in Scoudouc produces about 10% of the production in Canada and is a committed corporate citizen. They feel the best solution is a voluntary multi-material recycling programme with a minimum of regulation is the best approach.

Question Period

How was the weight reduced?

Changes in formula and technology. More even distribution of glass throughout the bottle.

How much cullet does Domglas use?

4,000 tons per year which is about 5% production. Some plants operate on 100% cullet.

What energy savings are achieved by using cullet?

Some industry people say it represents a 37% saving. A furnace costs between $7-$9,000,000 and lasts from 7-9 years. Domglas may be building a new one in 18 months.

Does the wrapper on plastishield bottles affect recycling glass?

No, it is light, easy to separate and can be vacuumed off.

Who designs the label? (What about putting slogans on labels?)

Outside design firms do the labels and slogans could be put on labels but it would be very expensive.

Where does the soda ash come from?

It comes from the United States where it is mined.

What about people outside Nova Scotia who bring glass to bottle dealers expecting to receive refunds as they do where they live?

People can do so because glass has an intrinsic value.

Frank Zwicker
Big 8 Beverages, Stellarton

They service three Atlantic provinces and Ontario. The soft drink industry is not the sole contributor to litter but beverage containers are a "visible item". Other items are litter as well. The current legislation which employs fines is not enforced. There should be enforcement, heavier fines and the offenders names and fines should be published. There is no place on the 100 Series Highways to dispose of garbage. If roadside disposal stations are created, they should be well serviced. If a disposal system is implemented for soft drink containers, he is concerned over who would monitor the system and what would happen to the money that is collected. He feels that industry must do something before legislation is forced on them. For labelling, they would find it too difficult to segregate for various areas in the country. Other litter components must also be addressed. An example is the amount of blown tire rubber from trucks that is found along the highways. Truckers contribute to the litter. Convenience stores are the origin of litter. As New Brunswick is currently examining the same issue, perhaps the two provinces should work together because some companies tranship between the two provinces.

Question Period

While you say the litter legislation should be enforced, what about the existing beverage container legislation?

He doesn't have the answer but noted that we live in a world of convenience packaging. If it was enforced, it would put Big 8 out of business which would mean the end of 14 jobs and the related spin offs. Big 8 is owned by a major food store but does not do its own distribution.

What percentage of your production is plastic?

92% plastic; 8% glass.

How long have you been in the soft drink industry?

39 years on the production line (personal experience).

Would you support plastic recycling?

Yes, through the depot system. Big 8 would also financially support recycling to a limited extent.

What is wrong with a 5 or 10 cent deposit since the level hasn't changed much over the years? What has changed over the years?

There has been a consumer demand for new packaging types. The cost of the container is included with the cost of the contents.

Why not all plastic production or all glass production?

He would like to stop using glass. Currently, 80% of the product in glass containers is shipped to Newfoundland.

Would education help to reduce litter?

We have tried it for years, it doesn't work.

How would you rate the value of education on a scale of 1 to 10?

He would rate it at 8 but says he doesn't know how to go about using it to address litter concerns. He also noted that litter legislation existed before non-returnable containers were used.

If education works for litter, should the companies be doing research to

find solutions to the problems with container packaging?

He says the companies are working on this but couldn't say when the solutions will be found.

What about fines and publishing the names of offenders?

He agrees with publishing the names and thinks that sufficiently large fines would deter littering.

Is the safety factor important?

Yes, some glass bottles are "bombs" e.g. 750 ml glass bottles. 300 and 500 ml glass bottles are safe.

Lester Settle, Executive Director
Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture
Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Question Period

What would a good penalty be for littering and what do you think about publishing the names of offenders?

A sufficient fine would be $200-$250 and he likes the idea of publishing offenders' names as a deterrent.

What about plastic bottles?

Plastic is not really an agricultural problem. The glass bottle is a problem in agriculture but the plastic bottle is still a litter problem.

Glass is gone from the milk industry, meat products are sold in convenience packaging and even carrots are sold in plastic bags. How come we find beer bottles on roadsides when drinking and driving penalties are severe?

Household wastes are taken care of in disposal. The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture's resolution was initiated by farmers in Colchester County who live in proximity to the Truro fast food lane.

What empty bottles are the problem?

Beverage bottles, mostly beer and soft drink ones.

Due to ongoing changes in packaging, would a new steel can be a problem?

Yes.

Would farmers be interested in recycling?
Yes, they are part of an LRCC committee looking at the disposal of chemical containers.

Ian Mackenzie
Sobeys

Sobeys has introduced a photodegradable shopping bag. It starts to degrade in the sunlight and will finish degrading in a landfill site. Some stores recycle cardboard but it depends on the size of the store. Littering should be made socially unacceptable.

Question Period

Do some stores have compactors?
Yes.
If all plastic containers, could the stores compact plastics returned?
No one knows what options could be pursued.
Would it be a major problem for a store to have a second compactor?
The costs are unknown. Bottle returns are labour intensive. Large stores may be able to afford it but not smaller ones. Depots may be the answer but the system should be operated by a non-government group.
Has Sobeys started a trend with photo-degradable bags?
He's not sure.
How should a deposit system be operated?
It should be run through a deposit system because of the large number of retail stores. It should be run through a non-governmental operation because of the bipartisan nature of government.
Would Sobeys advertise or promote the return and recycling of containers?
Yes it could be in line with its emphasis on depots.
Do bulk sales in stores represent a hygiene and safety problem?
Not a real problem. An employee is generally assigned to watch bulk food items. Bulk foods are successful especially with older people.

Shauna Cronkite
Truro Development Corporation

Promotes the encouragement of young offenders to be involved in litter clean up. She speaks to schools and church groups about litter and encourages people to pick it up. Young offenders could be used to clean up litter. A group of Grade 4-6 children kept her speaking on the issue for 2 hours.

Question Period

What about litterers being forced to pick up litter?
She doesn't think it should be forced; fun schemes work best.

Lowell Langille
Pugwash

He tried to start a local recycling operation involving glass, plastic and cardboard. He is unemployed and is trying to create work for himself. It is a low population density area. He has picked up bottles along the highway but it is not economically feasible. Legislation should require recycling at landfill sites. He doesn't know what it would cost to set up a recycling depot at a landfill site. It could possibly create 4 jobs at each site. A permit system should be implemented. He would make money off the sale of recyclables which would provide income tax for the government. He doesn't know who to approach to obtain assistance to start up. He feels a recycler would have to have a monopoly over a certain area to make it economically feasible. Another problem is the low price paid for glass.

Comments - Brian Howell, Domglas - Domglas is examining the possibility of having truckers to backhaul glass after they have delivered their loads. This could help address the problem of the cost of transporting recyclable glass from Nova Scotia to Domglas in New Brunswick. There are 2 spray coatings on non-refillable 300 and 500 ml pop bottles. There are lubricants to prevent binding and scratching. If the same deposits are placed on all types of containers, it will affect the product mix of sales in the market place.

Lynn Curwin-Porteous

Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Additional comments - In addition to the written text Lynn Curwin-Porteous was concerned that some stores leave out a lot of mess which is blown over the fields. At one time she called the local health department to act on this. It took them until the following day to review the situation by which time most of the litter had been blown a long way away and it was too late. People should be penalized for littering and in addition to paying fines should be directed to clean out some of the ditches.

Question Period

You called the health department and they didn't act?

They didn't seem concerned.

What do you think of including picking up litter as a penalty?

That would be a good idea.

You say that mixed messages are received by your 4 year old child. Why have you decided to teach your child?

I am concerned about the World, as are my friends and associates. We all save bottles and cans.

Where do you drop off your cans and bottles?

At John Ross' depot in Truro.

There was a general discussion between the Task Force and members of the audience regarding the collecting and re-refining of used oil.

Who's collecting paper in Truro?

Church and senior citizens groups take them to Debert. There are some yellow containers in the town where papers can be deposited.

Who tells the people about these yellow containers?

Certainly not the municipality. They're just interested in landfill.

Commentary

Rev. Stokoe commented that he was shocked about litter in Truro and wrote to the newspaper. The newspaper later did an "on the street poll" where 7 people responded to say that there was really no problem in Truro. Rev. Stokoe felt that perhaps some of these respondents did not wish to sound offensive against their town and some in fact stated that they were pleased with garbage collection (which seems to have been confused with the issue) and others perhaps don't notice the litter, particularly if you are driving by in a car.

Mr. & Mrs. Clarey Cann (audience participants) suggested that litter collects on vacant sites. The CNR is one of the worst offenders for dumping junk leaving empty oil drums etc. on their lands. John Ross the scrap dealer in the area has an unfenced site which is running over and quite offensive.

Phil Warman (audience participant) noted that you rarely see beer bottles because they have a value. Other items that do turn up as litter don't have much value. We need to put a value on these things to get them out of the litter stream.

There was a general discussion on aluminum can recycling in general and the value of this. Bill Ballou (audience participant) was also shocked with the litter situation in the Truro area. With his experience of living in California and other western States, he related how that area had turned round into a non-littering society, influenced by strong advertising and peer pressure. The message was that the environment could not stand it any longer. He believes in positive reinforcement not the negative approach through heavy handed legislation. The promotion of a litter free society leads to recycling. He has several containers in his kitchen and related how every grocery store in Denver would accept aluminum cans back. People there got onto the bandwagon as a community effort. Advertising would be seen constantly on billboards and television with campaigns like "Take a little extra with you than what you brought". He believes that litter is the only thing that isn't beautiful in Nova Scotia. It is sometimes difficult for the individual who throws out the cigarette package to relate this to litter.

Rev. Stokoe recalled that an advertising campaign in Great Britain which stated "Don't be a litter lout" was quite effective because of the connotation of being a lout, whereas the term here is litter bug, which doesn't have a harsh enough feel to it. In fact it could even be regarded as being cute.

Rev. Rodney Stokoe
Truro

Rev. Rodney Stokoe pointed out that he has already made a written submission but was at this meeting to make a more personal plea.

As a boy, Rev. Stokoe learnt that cleanliness is next to godliness, however this does not seem to cut much ice now. There is a very profound meaning to this statement. The practice of fouling the environment is not just a health question or a pollution question or a beauty question, it is a moral question. Litterers have no self respect. They display a poor moral fibre. They have to recover. Littering is fundamentally a moral question.

God has to do with finding meaning in the World or a purpose to life. People have seemed to have lost sight of this. It isn't worth being in this World if we are going to turn it into a garbage dump. What message do children get from messy elders or from teenagers who throw away fast food trash? It is a question of attitude and will power. We must get the message out. People need encouragement to display their will power.

Dirt is the work of the Devil. Creation brings order out of chaos while the Devil does the reverse, like littering. People don't seem to see it under their noses. We must act now or our destination is unpleasant. The word on cleaning up has to be spread, somewhat like the Gospel.

Comments

Phil Warman said that pollution of the environment is a major issue and the media should be more responsive. They should show how each individual can get involved rather than finding someone else to blame, or the government.

Task Force member Barry MacFarlane felt that self respect and self esteem should be tied in the advertising message to provide positive images. Good advertising creates a way for people to feel good about themselves. Regarding the concern about litter being perceived as a garbage collection problem, litter is refuse out of control while garbage is controlled litter.

Question Period

What is the Town of Truro doing?
The Town is more interested in controlling landfill sites. Householders have to pay private contractors to do garbage pick up.

Pat McManus
Hub Recycling

The Town of Truro is the worst problem. They display a lack of cooperation towards recyclers. Pat McManus asked if he could remove cardboard and waste paper from the landfill site and the Town refused him permission. He now picks up garbage from local stores on a daily basis. The K-Mart's garbage is 80% cardboard.

After being a truck driver for a number of years he found he was out of work at 50, and got involved in recycling for a job. Being turned down by the Town of Truro was devastating. They told him that once the garbage was taken to the landfill it could not be removed. McManus picks up about 1% of Truro's recyclable cardboard, the rest goes to the dump Government should educate the municipal units with regards to permitting recycling at dumps.

At this point John Thorpe exhibited the contents of a bag of litter collected between the Glengarry Motel and the Teacher's College. These ranged from construction site litter, candy wrappings, cigarette packs and cigarette ends, juice containers and pop bottles and cans. The effects of discriminatory legislation that singles out specific types of container was illustrated by discussing the move to tetrapak containers and various retail store dispensed cups. This served to emphasize that regulations need to be flexible enough to address all eventualities and consumer/industry/market demands.

APPENDICES

Supporting Documents

TRURO

Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture
Lynn Curwin-Porteous

NOVA SCOTIA
FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE
P. O. Box 784 Truro, Nova Scotia B2N 5E8
Telephone (902) 893-2293
OFFICES AT COLCHESTER CO-OPERATIVE SERVICES LTD., WILLOW STREET

SUBMISSION OF THE NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

TO THE NOVA SCOTIA TASK FORCE ON LITTER ABATEMENT

JULY 13, 1988

INTRODUCTION

The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture (NSFA) thanks the Task Force on Litter Abatement for this opportunity to appear. NSFA wishes to affirm the mandate of this Task Force, which has been challenged to maintain a "good quality of life for Nova Scotians."

NSFA COMMITMENT

The agricultural industry in Nova Scotia and the farming community have traditionally upheld the value of maintaining as high a standard of living as possible, throughout the rural areas of this province. We believe rural Nova Scotians rightly take pride in caring for the natural beauty of their province, in particular for our prime physical resources of land and water.

VOLUNTARY PLANNING

NSFA has exhibited its commitment to the natural resources of this province through its long standing association with (Nova Scotia) Voluntary Planning. The Federation was one of the initial members of the Land Resources Coordinating Committee (LRCC). LRCC bring together land owners and land users for the purpose of resolving differences and tensions which may exist between the two groups. In this capacity, NSFA has maintained an ongoing concern for all topics related to use and ownership of land and encouraged formation of a litter committee within LRCC. This committee led to the eventual formation of the Clean Nova Scotia Foundation, which the Federation is pleased to support.

RURAL BEAUTIFICATION

On another front, NSFA has been involved with the Nova Scotia Rural Beautification Committee since 1965, the first year beautification competitions were held. The purpose of the beautification program is to enhance the natural beauty of Nova Scotia through rural improvement projects. The program is administered through NSFA by a committee of citizens representing all regions of the province. Funded by contributions from both the government of Nova Scotia and private donors, the beautification program this year has a budget of $30,500 and a total of 474 project applications, an increase of 125 applications from 1987. (As part of our submission, we file a copy of the brochure used to promote the beautification program.)

ANNUAL RESOLUTION

At this time, NSFA addresses this Task Force to two specific aspects of Federation policy. At the 92nd Annual Meeting of the Federation in 1987, farmer delegates approved a resolution brought forward by the Colchester County Federation of Agriculture. This resolution cites the poor situation with regard to littering along some Nova Scotia roads, plus the fact the fine for littering does "not appear to be much of a deterrant." The resolution resolves to support the Clean Nova Scotia Foundation in its task of public education about littering and about taking "more pride in our highways and roads."

STANDING POLICY

The Standing Policy of NSFA, dated March 1988, includes a policy statement regarding environmental protection. This policy is based on the premise that "agriculture has a great stake" in the protection of the environment. This policy specifically cites the "danger and unsightly appearance of littered bottles along roadsides and fields." The NSFA asks that this problem be addressed in three specific ways:

- "that a reward for all empty bottles be established"
- "that a stiff penalty be applied to those caught sabotaging the country with empty bottles"
- "that the government impose a ban on non-returnable bottles"

At this time, NSFA concludes its submission and thanks the Task Force for the opportunity to present the agricultural perspective with regard to litter abatement.

Presented on behalf of John Vissers,
President, NSFA, by Lester Settle,
Executive Director, NSFA

5. RUR EMETERY IMPROVEMENT COMPETITION

Organizations wishing to improve rural cemeteries are eligible and must forward entries by the organization responsible for the cemetery.

ging will be based on:

Straightening of headstones	300 pts.
Leveling, seeding and care of grass	200 pts.
Care of hedges, flowers and ornamental trees	200 pts.
General appearance (from highway)	100 pts.
Identification of cemetery (from highway)	200 pts.

PRIZES	County	Provincial
First	$100.00	Plaque and prize (1st & 2nd)
Second	$ 50.00	
Third	$ 25.00	

FARM IMPROVEMENT COMPETITION

Open to any farmer whose residence is in the same area as other buildings of the farm.

Judging will be based on:

Property maintenance	300 pts.
General appearance	200 pts.
Lawns, flowers, trees, shrubs	200 pts.
View from road	200 pts.
Machinery, vehicles, equipment	100 pts.

PRIZES	County	Provincial
First	$50.00	Plaque & prize (1st & 2nd)
Second	$25.00	
Third	$15.00	

FLOWER GARDEN COMPETITION

residents of rural areas or incorporated villages are eligible.

Judging will be based on:

Planting to suit the background	100 pts.
Healthy growth of plants	200 pts.
Continuous summer bloom	200 pts.
Variety of flowers	100 pts.
Design, arrangement and harmony of color	200 pts.
Weed removal	200 pts.

IZES	County	Provincial
st	$50.00 Gift Certificate	Plaque & prize (1st & 2nd)
Second	$25.00 "	
Third	$15.00 "	

COMMUNIT IDE GRANTS

The N.S. Rural Beautification Committee wishes to assist rural communities in making themselves more attractive by offering a limited number of annual grants. Any community group, including Womens Instit 4-H Clubs, church or cemetery trustees, relig organizations, service clubs, or those entering into the competition are eligible for the grants.

Maximum Grant:
The maximum grant that may be applied for is $200. per year and the minimum is $50.

Use of Grant Funds:
The funds obtained through this grant must be used for the purchase of materials and supplies to improve the exterior of buildings, grounds, roadsides, etc. T funds are not to be spent on labour. Please remem to obtain receipts for all materials purchashed.

Examples:

- Improvements and/or identification of churches, cemeteries, community halls, public buildings, points of interest.
- Painting of community buildings such as church hall.
- Improvements to small park areas or rest areas for motorists.
- Removal of roadside garbage dumps.

(Emphasis is placed on projects that are permanent to nature.)

Time Factor:
Notification of grant approval will be given to plicants by May 15th. Please remember that wor these projects must be done by September 1st. These dates are necessary in order for our committee to take before and after pictures.

See entry form for application of Grant.

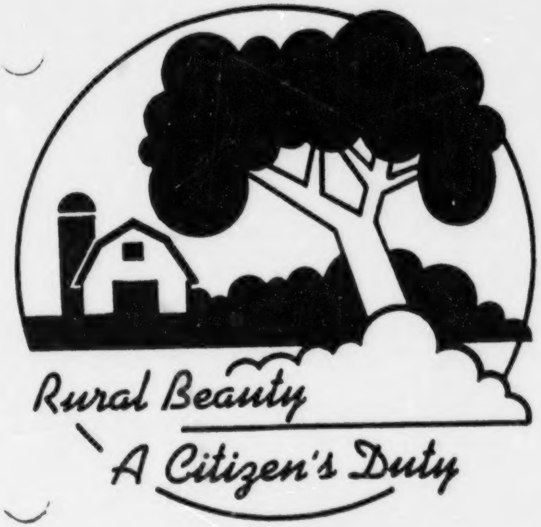
Applications for grants and entries for all competitions must be in by May 1st.

Applicants applying for the grants should also enter competitions.

For more information, please write:

NOVA SCOTIA RURAL BEAUTIFICATION
P.O. Box 784
Truro, N.S.
B2N 5E8

Rural Beautification
At Work In
Nova Scotia



In Cooperation with

Nova Scotia Department of
Agriculture & Marketing

Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

ENTRY FORM

We wish to:

( ) Enter the N.S. Youth Group Competition.
( ) Enter the Community Facility Competition.
( ) Enter the Home Improvement Competition.
( ) Enter the Junior Beautification Project.
( ) Enter the Rural Cemetery Improvement C petition.
( ) Enter the Flower Garden Competition.
( ) Enter the Farm Improvement Competition.

Do you wish to apply for the Community Pride Grant?
Yes. . . . . No . . . .

If yes, outline project proposal and give estimated budget for materials.

Applicants applying for the grants should also enter competitions.

Name of Sponsoring Group or Contestant

. . . .

Address . . . .

. . . .

Telephone . . . .

If a group entry and or/applying for a grant:

Contact person 1. . . . .

Address . . . .

. . . .

Telephone . . . .

Contact person 2. . . . .

Address . . . .

. . . .

Telephone . . . .

Please state number in group . . . .

Locality or Community Name . . . .

. . . .

County . . . .

Applications for grants and entries for all competitions must be in by May 1st.

Please remember to enclose entry fees, where applicable.

t is necessary to make a list of planned improvem and directions to your home and attach to this fo

Mail completed form to:

Nova Scotia Rural Beautification
P.O. Box 784
Truro, Nova Scotia
B2N 5E8

RURAL BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM

PURPOSE: *To enhance atural beauty of Nova Scotia through its rural areas.*

ELIGIBILITY: Any persons living in rural areas and incorporated villages in the province can enter the pro 1.

ENTRY FEE: Contestants must pay a $2.00 entry fee for each competition entered. Please submit with your entry fee a description of proposed project plans.

JUDGING: Initial judging begins around May 15 and final judging is in early September. Photos will be taken at these times by the judges.

RULES:

1) Only work done to the exterior of existing buildings be scored.
he planting of native trees will receive the same merit as imported ornamentals.
3) Where the amount of improvement is small and where a prize might be given through lack of competition, the value of the prize may be changed or no award given, at the judge's descretion.
4) More emphasis will be put on projects of a permanent nature rather than temporary improvements.
5) The committee is not responsible for claims or entries which have been lost in the mail.
6) In the competitions, all first place county winners will automatically be entered in the provincial competition.
7) Groups are urged to take pictures before any work is done if they plan to start before the judge's visit and present them to the judge at that time. The work will then be credited to the contestant.
ontestants must abide by the judge's decision which shall be final.

NOVA SCOTIA RURAL BEAUTIFICATIONS COMPETITIONS

1. NOVA SCOTIA YOUTH GROUP COMPETITION

Any group of young people in the province is eligible. Groups organized specifically for this project will have equal consideration.

R uirements:

esignate a need or a problem area in the community.
2) Outline work necessary to meet this need or to solve the problem.
3) Indicate the number of people working on the project and note any contact or involvement with other community groups.

Judging will be based on:

1) Originality and insight involved he choice of project.
2) General appearance of project.
3) Amount of work involved.
4) Permanancy of the project.
5) General membership participation.

PRIZES	County	Provincial
First	$50.00	$100.00
Second	$25.00	$ 60.00
Third	$15.00	$ 40.00

2.COMMUNITY FACILITY COMPETITION

Includes the beautification of individual community facilities such as halls churches, schools, parks.

Judging will be based on:

General improvements (fences, landscaping)	200 p
Exterior repairs and improvements	200 p
Lawns and flowers	200 pts.
Planting trees, hedges, shrubs	50 pts.
Removal of old buildings, rubbish and weeds	150 pts.
Flagpole with flag	25 pts.
Fences around buildings	25 pts.
Facility entrance improvements (ie. paving, gateways, suitable lighting)	100 pts.
Removal of litter on highway frontage	50 pts.

PRIZES	County	Provincial
First	$100.00	Plaque and prize (1st & 2nd)
Second	$ 50.00	
Third	$ 25.00	

3. HOME IMPROVEMENT COMPETITION

Residential home owners are eligible.

Judging will be based on:

Same point value system as the Community Facility Competition.

PRIZES	County	Provincial
First	$50.00	Plaque and prize (1st & 2nd)
Second	$25.00	
Third	$15.00	

4. JUNIOR BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

Eligibility:

The project will be an improvement in general appearance to parents or guardian's property by any person 19 years of age or under.

Judging and Prizes:

Similar to the Home Improvement Competition.

PROVINCIAL TASK FORCE ON LITTER ABATEMENT
JULY 13 - TRURO

Presentation by Lynn Curwin-Porteous

I am submitting this paper because I believe everyone should be concerned about the state of the environment and do what they can to improve the situation in which we find ourselves today. Litter is one thing which could be reduced through education, legislation and having a population which cares for the world in which we live.

Whenever we travel on the highways of Nova Scotia we are confronted by litter in the ditches and on the side of the roads. Whenever I go for a walk in my own neighbourhood I see litter in ditches, in fields and on lawns. When I cleaned the ditch in front of my home this Spring I found a soft drink can, a cigarette package and packaging from McDonalds restaurant. All of this was just in front of one home.

Everyone is responsible for the present situation to some extent. Many people seem to view the earth as something which they themselves can use without any thought for the future. They are counting on others to clean up their mess. They will never accept responsibility for their own waste unless it is forced upon them. Even those who try to tae care of their environment are causing waste. Many of these people would be willing to help if they knew what to do with their waste products. Those who care about the state of the environment must do what they can to take care of their garbage and that of irresponsible citizens.

Many people do their own auto repairs but few know where to dispose of the used oil from their vehicles, which can be recycled. There should be drop off points for oil and the public should be made aware of these spots. Scrap metal is also being taken to landfill sites in many cases. People should be made awaree that this can be recycled and where it can be taken. I know of one garage which would give its scrap metal to anyone who would collect it but the local scrap metal dealer refuses to leave a bin at the garage any more, claiming that there isn't enough scrap from this spot. The scrap metal dealers should be encouraged to collect metal from these places.

Most people seem to be unaware that glass and aluminum cans can be recycled. The government should be informing the public of this. Many people do not even know where paper can be dropped for recycling. In some areas of Europe recyclable materials must be bagged separately and set out for collection on certain days. This is probably the best way to get these materials to the right places as most people would probably never take them to there areas themselves. We need tougher laws to deal with waste products and we in Nova Scotia do not have to wait and follow the rest of the world. We should act now and be an example to be admired.

Children in the schools should be taught about the importance of recycling and encouraged not to litter. Near where I live there is an elementary school. Just a few meters down the street there is a convenience store. The area surrounding the store is covered with litter. I realize that the elementary children are not causing all of this litter but they are causing a great deal of it. I have taught my four year old not to litter. Apparently many parents are not doing this with their children and I know my child is very confused by the garbage he sees on the ground. He is unable to understand why so many people have done such a "bad" thing. Garbage bins should be placed at and at short distances from areas such as convenience stores. Perhaps packages (posters, litter bags, etc.) could be put together for volunteers to use when speaking at schools. Surely enough interested people could be found in each area to speak at schools.

A few garbage bins should also be placed at spots where people could pull off the highway a bit to dispose of garbage. I know from experience how unpleasant it can be travelling with a dirty diaper.

I think it would probably be a good idea if non-returnable soft drink bottles were banned from the province unless a recycling programme can be set up for plastic. Most people are now buying the two litre plastic bottles because they are so much cheaper. They are not counting the cost to the environment.

Action must be taken to clean up Nova Scotia and it must be taken as soon as possible.

Lynn Curwin-Porteous

Schedule of Presentations

AMHERST
July 14, 1988

Cumberland District Planning Commission
Municipality of the County of Cumberland
Barbara Jack, NDP Candidate

Jens Jenson, Director
Cumberland District Planning Commission

Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Additional Comments - The particular county concern is the disposal of litter and solid waste. The solutions must address common ideas. The Regional Sanitary Landfill at Little Forks accepts about two thirds of the county garbage. This represents from 30 to 50 tons per day for 22,000 people. The other 12,000 people in the area are serviced by small rural dumps. The Porter Dillon study of 10-12 years ago looked at recycling to reduce waste. The study showed the economics of recycling to be bleak without source separation. Some commercial operators have had limited success. Currently, there is nothing being done with the exception of glass. There is also nothing being done at the landfill site. They used to recycle scrap metal but the local Moncton smelter said the quantities weren't available to make it feasible. The interest is raised from time to time. The car crusher does occasionally come around and the Derelict Motor Vehicle Programme is a positive step. The Planning Commission wants to promote paper recycling to reduce landfill requirements and perhaps even pay someone to do it but the idea has not reached the decision making level yet. He noted that K-Mart is baling cardboard and that while he thought it was going to New Minas to be recycled, he has been told that it goes to the landfill site.

Question Period

Has the Commission looked for someone to do the recycling?
No. He heard that paper averages 42% of landfill waste. He has had experience with the blue box curbside recycling system in Ottawa. He also noted that he is not enthusiastic about the economics of separating recyclables at a local landfill site.

How much paper goes to the landfill site?
About 20 tons of every 50 tons of garbage is paper and cardboard. They did collect cardboard at the landfill in Pictou at one time but the economics are sketchy.

Does Sobeys compact their cardboard?
He doesn't know but thinks only the K-Mart does.

What is the cost of garbage disposal?
$17 per ton. The Town of Springhill is the only one which provides pick up service. The

costs of disposal are paid out of general tax revenues. Commercial companies already think they are paying a lot.

What is the breakdown between household and industrial waste?

Residential waste accounts for 60% of the total. He referred to a landfill survey of waste sources and components.

The K-Mart baler is a small manual one which is not very efficient and doesn't compact much.

Jensen showed a series of slides he took the previous week concerned with the litter problem. He noted that litter is even bad in front of the police station. It 's also bad up and down the highways and as far as he knows, no one has been charged for throwing litter from a car or for dumping garbage. The latter is especially bad near the landfill site along a 1 1/4 mile gravel road leading up to the site. If the landfill site is closed, people will dump their garbage along the side of the road. House construction material and renovation waste is dumped along small roads elsewhere. Some of the trucks being used may have garbage fall off them. This is generally the case with small individual and company trucks and not so far with the modern garbage collection vehicles. While some trucks have nets covering their loads, some people don't secure their loads even though a municipal by law exists requiring secured loads when hauling garbage. Some licensed garbage haulers are bad offenders who have poorly secured loads which is against the law. Municipalities have complained to the Department of Transportation because uncovered refuse is an offence under the Motor Vehicle Act. When the Commission is blamed for not solving this problem, it counters that it is up to the RCMP to enforce the laws.

Waste and litter reduces the beauty of the area and litter and illegal dumping sites are easy to find. In 1978 the landfill site was only open Monday to Friday with bins for garbage outside for the off hours. There was still too much garbage outside so two bins were left outside for weekends. In 1980, the RCMP prosecuted a few people for dumping and the problem stopped near the gates but now it is being dumped elsewhere. If the law was enforced, word would get around that dumping isn't worth the risk.

Question Period

What happened to the trees cleared from the landfill site?

They were cleared by Lands and Forests for use as fuel wood.

What were the magnitudes of the 1980 fines?

It was $50 plus $3 court costs and the names of the offenders were published in the newspaper.

Should periodic campaigns by police be aimed at litterers?

If enforced, it wouldn't take many fines to change the commercial truckers' attitudes. The Minister of Transportation says the provisions of the Motor Vehicle Act are sufficient if they are enforced. The Attorney General says it's up to the Planning Commission to address the problem and that the police are doing a sufficient job.

Glen Boone, Development Officer
Alan Monroe, Councillor
& Vice Chairman of Planning Advisory Committee
Municipality of the County of Cumberland

Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Additional Comments - All dumps are the municipality's responsibility except the Little Forks landfill site. He supports the comments made by the Cumberland District Planning Commission.

An overall recycling programme is needed. About $20,000 goes into work around the 9 dumps. This includes bulldozing, firebreaks, clearing etc. Feedback is needed between the municipal and provincial levels of government prior to achieving support for programmes. Some of the 9 landfill sites are busting at the seams and there may be only a few years left in which some can be used. They can't spend money outright but recycling could extend the life of a landfill by 30-40%. The government could bring the hammer down on industry without the backing of much public support. An attitude change is needed to get people involved and concerned. The problem is peaking in the county. Initially, a nasty letter is sent to offenders and he feels second violaters should be prosecuted. Important to recycling is the awareness needed to get people to separate their garbage. He referred to a good article in Harrowsmith on the merits of burning garbage versus recycling. He doesn't support burning because at present, it is not environmentally sound. Some operational costs of landfilling can be reduced by recycling. He thinks the people of Cumberland County are becoming more aware of the problem. If garbage has a value, people will be less likely to throw it all in the dump.

Some Ontario municipalities have instituted by laws to enforce curbside recycling. If the garbage is not separated, it is yellow tagged and not picked up. However, curbside recycling may not work in rural areas.

The presentation was meant to address the issues and both the Council and the Planning Advisory Committee are willing to discuss it further. They will have to address the problem soon whether or not the province acts but they would like the province to support a province wide programme.

Question Period

Are garbage collectors on a tender basis or is collection private?

Garbage collection is private in this county.

What would the unions' reaction be to changes in the system?

People wanted to do away with one dump site because of burning problems. This came up at a meeting.

Did the people want to go on an area rate?

People didn't want to. The only option left was to get a private operator which would cost $1.50 per week per household. This is a free enterprise system so there is no protection from someone undercutting the bid.

If they went on a county wide rate system, the original costs of equipment would be too high for the municipality so a tender would have to be called.

Should the province have a meeting of municipalities to address the disposal problem?

Yes. Council is currently waiting for a report of the county situation.

Does the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities have a solid waste committee?

They have discussed the problem but we don't know if they have a committee.

Could the province sponsor public service announcements?

Sure, but it may only be a start. The base for recycling has to be started first.

If someone gave you a blank cheque to start recycling, what would you do?

Clean up existing sites including roads leading to them.

Establish a recycling plant, run for profit by the municipality for products such as glass, etc.

Simultaneously educate the public about recycling.

Possibly establish rural transfer sites for separating waste.

What about existing recyclers?

Don't know enough about them but their role should be examined prior to establishing a system.

Comment - The intrinsic value of pop cans reduces the clean up costs for the City of Ottawa because people collect them. Paper is a problem in Ottawa because it isn't recycled.

Barbara Jack
NDP Candidate and Farmer
Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Additional Comments - She reported that there was good attendance at local solid waste meetings. Society has shown a poor lack of environmental accountability as indicated by our "throw away" generation. Some fundamental changes have to be made. There should be a shift in attitudes and we should learn to live within environmental constraints. She cited the example of the amount of paper brought home from school. Public awareness campaigns are long term and will take time to achieve results. Regarding photodegradable plastic bags, she wondered if people will feel less concerned about throwing them away. A problem for municipal involvement in recycling may be the unequal tax bases throughout the province. She has seen landfill sites in Massachusetts with specific areas delineated for specific materials, e.g. recyclables.

With reference to toxic litter, she suggested that there should be some interim measures to handle toxic waste until the Litter or Hazardous Waste Task Forces recommendations are implemented. She speculated that with respect to toxic wastes, the province is not enforcing regulations against disposal at county landfills out of deference to the costs of proper disposal.

Question Period

How do you make people more concerned about garbage?

Public awareness campaign, enforcement of legislation. An effort must be made to facilitate people's habits in the right direction.

Public Comment - Glen Boone - Doesn't feel that dump operators have the expertise to recognize and detect hazardous wastes.

Barbara Jack (cont.) - The federal and provincial governments should foot the bill because environment is their responsibility. If the Department of Environment doesn't pick up the costs associated with waste disposal, the Health Department will eventually have to. Landfill sites should have uniform standards of operation.
What would you do with a blank cheque?
Put the infrastructure in place for people to recycle easily.

Barbara Jack - She noted that the processes of manufacturing a product may have environmental impacts and that growth should be stimulated in environmentally acceptable industries.
Is one of the corporate problems their attitude of not replacing what they take out of the province?
Yes.

Peter Asimakos
Mainstreet Coordinator, Amherst
Perhaps a phone number of a local depot should be put on containers containing hazardous material. He also suggested that additional people be hired to clean up after events.

Question Period

What can be done about all the cigarette butts on the street?
He has noticed that throughout the province certain dwellings are garbage strewn. He wondered if the Task Force could result in a programme to clean up these places.

Glen Boone - There is an unsightly premises by law but that it is difficult to enforce because of the system that must be followed.

Barbara Jack - She wondered about what Prince Edward Island is doing because that province is in immaculate condition.

Task Force Comment - This Spring, Glace Bay assigned one police officer to enforce the unsightly premises by law and it has made a difference.

Bev True - She wants a recycling system put in place and is also looking for an alternative to throwing used books in the dump which can't be sold.

Task Force Comment - The Kingston Glass Busters recycles books. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) sends some overseas and the Adult Services Centre in Dartmouth tears the covers off some and recycle the paper.

Task Force Comment - A common concern that has been expressed is that people will recycle if the opportunity exists.

Lowell Langille - His interest is in getting started in recycling. He said one problem was finding his way through the bureaucratic maze in getting support to get established. He emphasized the problem of not being allowed to take recyclable materials from the landfill site.

Glen Boone - He suggested that Lowell go to the next meeting of the local Planning Advisory Committee. They would be happy to have someone reduce the amount of solid waste through recycling.

There were no formal presentations booked for the evening session though a small group of interested citizens and two representatives of the media were present.

John Thorpe, Executive Director of The Clean Nova Scotia Foundation shared the contents of a bag of litter collected over three blocks between the Fisher Hotel and the Town Hall. It was quite apparent that Amherst has an efficient clean up system at this time of the year. This was a downtown area and well provided with garbage containers. Litter was found on the edges of property and in the roadside gutters. Again, some construction debris was found, a glove near the railway tracks and, in the centre of the downtown, a necktie. Other litter was typical with predominance of cigarette boxes and cigarette ends. This provided a lot of interaction between the Task Force members and the people present.

Task Force member Barry MacFarlane related how the City of Dartmouth Council was concerned about litter and, with residents and business, has organized clean up campaigns. He recognized that Dartmouth has a real problem with litter and has a lot of catching up to do. They collected 2,000 bags of litter over approximately 3 hours.

He was concerned about the communication between the residents and municipal councils regarding their perception of litter and felt that Councils would normally move following representation from the public.

Clean up campaigns help to bring home the anti-littering feeling and those who pick up think twice before they throw things away in the future.

Three representatives of the West Pugwash Women's Institute were present (Ruth Mattinson, Ruth Lane and Arlene Chestnutt). They were asked to relate their thoughts regarding anti-litter campaigns. They remember being involved with the Sammy Seagull Campaign which is still used very successfully in Prince Edward Island which is a very beautiful and clean province. The Sammy Seagull programme had large bags with the seagull on it and also provided car litter bags.

Task Force Chairman Dorothy Grant related how she now, after becoming very aware of the value of recycling is collecting aluminum cans for the children's playroom at one of the Halifax hospitals as a fund raising project and asked if the women thought they could make money this way. The WINS members related that they were collecting glass which was being picked up by the KGB. One Women Institute member said that she collects newspapers from several people which is picked up by the half ton truck load and taken to a place in Debert with the money going to the church. They related that they would be interested in having boxes at the dump sites where they could place their recyclable garbage.

Another concerned citizen from the Amherst area Barbara Boiduk introduced herself as just a concerned citizen living on Route #6 where they get a lot of litter especially fast food trash from town. As a child she learnt to hold onto her litter until they got back home. She said she'd kill someone who threw something out of her car. Barbara Boiduk is working with the "Y" and after being at the meeting feels that now she will get young people involved with litter campaigns. It is hard to change the minds of adults but if we get to the kids, in twenty years time we will have a really clean province. A good place to start is with youth. Jeff Broome, the new managing secretary for the Nova Scotia Forestry Association said how his organization is very concerned about litter. They have a Woodsy Owl programme with the theme "Give a Hoot - Don't Pollute". They take the owl to schools and functions. Children love him. Education is the way to head off this litter problem, law enforcement is part of it but that alone will not do it. The Clean Nova Scotia Foundation and the Forestry Association together can look to children and teach them that litter is not socially acceptable. Woodsy Owl promotes a clean environment. Education is the best way to get to the next generation.

Task Force member Barry MacFarlane asked the Women's Institute representatives what they thought about different forms of legislation. Their response was "does anyone get caught?" Jeff Broome felt there was a need for a combination of legislation and education. We need the police to take action then people will think more about it. Also publish the names of the offenders and perhaps they should also spend some time picking up garbage.

John Thorpe of The Clean Nova Scotia Foundation explained the different chemicals and methods of producing degradable plastics.

The Women's Institute representatives related that how in Pugwash people go up a side road and dump cars, refrigerators, stoves, furniture and other garbage. This was reported to the Department of the Environment who investigated the situation. They announced that the road was a "Z" road and it had been abandoned as no one lives on it so the litter problem did not matter! At one time a lady called the police after seeing a truck of garbage going up the road. The police came and stopped the returning truck who said they would go back and pick up the garbage that they had dumped. No charges were laid. One husband took photographs of this situation which even included a license plate but no one did anything about it. Tom McCoag of the Chronicle Herald took off his media hat and related that this item would make a good story but people rarely come forward to talk about such issues publicly. He related that how a one lane bridge near Parrsboro which was in despicable condition was typical of this. No one would talk about it. Finally he managed to obtain the interest of the local industrial commission as the bridge was cutting into the local economy as trucks with only a half load were allowed to pass over it, which resulted in a story in his newspaper. The next day engineers came from Halifax, shut down the bridge and started work on reinforcing it up to full load status. Now there is a new bridge being built. This all resulted from drawing public attention to the situation. People don't like to bring pressure onto politicians via the media, however once an issue is reported action often takes place.

A Women's Institute representative related that often issues come up at meetings and they look at one another "what can we do?". Perhaps they should be utilizing the media more often.

Task Force member Barry MacFarlane stated that there seems to be a high tolerance for the litter problem. With the media covering a situation, particularly if accompanied with a photograph, politicians will show an interest and will wish to commit themselves to do something.

The West Pugwash women said that garbage in their area is picked up by several private contractors if it cannot be handled by the householder. The whole region is serviced via private pick up. Tom McCoag related how he puts his garbage out on a Sunday night which is probably picked up at 3 a.m. while a neighbour three houses down the street puts his out on a Tuesday and someone else has theirs out on Thursday. All serviced by different contractors. He pays $21 each quarter for this service.

There was a general discussion regarding the merits of municipal, contracted or private pick up. This seems to be a contentious municipal issue and one that has been a problem for years. It also relates to the variety of disposal sites ranging from a landfill to open burning pits.

APPENDICES

Supporting Documents

AMHERST

Municipality of the County of Cumberland
Barbara Jack, NDP Candidate

Afternoon.
Amherst. July 14, 1988

Alan Munroe, County
Councillor and Vice Chairm
of the Planning Advisory
Committee

Cumberland Co.

with Glen Boone

Litter Abatement in the Province of Nova Scotia

Cumberland County Perspective

The issue we are dealing with is garbage abatement, which by definition means to diminish or dispose of the vast amounts of rubbish produced annually. If, in fact abatement seeks to diminish the amount of garbage we produce, then a serious look must be made at our present methods of disposal. The formulation of a solid plan and policies in this area is the responsibility of both government and the people of this province with neither party placing the full load on the shoulders of the other. Thus, this forum (task force on litter abatement) is the basis or foundation for such a relationship to find a working solution.

The increasing value of land and the limited quantities of the same are bringing about the need to better utilize what we have. Our Municipal Dumps and Landfill sites in most cases are overflowing and busting at the seams. Obtaining additional land for such purposes is becoming increasingly harder to do. From an environmental perspective and public opinion these sites are something no one wishes to have placed in their back yard. The result of the present situation is to better utilize our existing sites and to help reduce the pressure on them. This can only be done by reducing the quantities of garbage placed in these sites.

It is not realistic to simply state that we reduce the amount of debris and waste we produce. There has to be another alternative. Incinerating garbage to reduce the bulk is one option but has numerous environmental drawbacks. The production of air pollutants which can effect everything from foods grown in an area surrounding an incinerator to human tissue structure make this a questionable option. The battle is still being waged between both sides for and against burning garbage, but studies are showing its harmful effects. Until better controls, more advanced technology and methods of dealing with the emissions of such operations have been developed, it may be a good alternative to avoid.

These environmental and health concerns bring about experts in this field to lobby for "the three 'R's"; reduce, re-use and recycle. Through a program of recycling the amounts of everyday household waste could be reduced substantially. This is not something that could be done over-night but would take careful

Any visit to a Municipal Dump site or Landfill within Cumberland County would show tonnes of waste and materials which are capable of being recycled or re-used. The reduction of the amount of such material could go a long way in prolonging the life of many of these sites and relieve some of the pressure on those areas in which closure is inevitable.

A program designed to encourage residents to separate their recyclable materials may be an approach which the Department of Environment should consider. If recycling was a predominant practice in Nova Scotia then people may find it worthwhile to separate such materials, but at present this is not the case. This is why a strong program of public awareness of this possibly explosive problem of "where to put our garbage" should be tabled as a means of gaining support for new methods to deal with our waste materials.

At present within our Municipal Dump Sites we are attempting to segregate scrap metals, car bodies, etc., in the hope that we can obtain a regular contractor that will come and with the use of a crusher take these materials for recycling. In fact the Municipality has had some dealings with a gentlemen from Moncton who has a small scale crusher which can deal with things such as fridges, stoves, washers, etc., which can help to remove some of these materials from our landfill sites. This, however, is a small start and because of economic reasons and general lack of support for the recycling concept, it does not allow for the possibility of attracting these contractors.

However, the bulk of the recyclable goods still remain untouched - household waste such as glass, cans, and paper still need to be addressed in regard to recycling in the Province. In the more urban centres, curb side pickup of these materials in separate containers is a feasible option, but in more rural settings such as ours it may not be as worthy an option. This, I believe leaves room for discussion, ideas which could be presented totally on their own.

A program must be set up at both the Municipal and Provincial levels to help initiate some form of recycling. Through a strong alliance at these two levels lobbying of the Federal government for assistance can also be sought. Funding of course will be the key issue and will require consideration. However, the real issue and what is at stake is our Province's environment and the Health concerns of the people of our communities, therefore funding may have to take a back seat at some time.

Key Points

- Lack of land and increasing value should we be using large amounts simply for the disposal of waste.

- What options are available:
    - incineration
    - recycling

- Recycling is more enviromentally sound and health conscious.

- A program designed to promote and initiate recycling is needed.

- Will result in a reduction of garbage placed in our dump sites.

- Mun-Prov-Fed- co-operation is essential.

BRIEF TO THE TASK FORCE ON LITTER ABATEMENT
Barbara Jack, New Democratic Party candidate for Cumberland West
July 14, 1988, Amherst, N.S.

The Nova Scotia New Democratic Party recently adopted a policy on the environment. Its keystone is the principle of responsibility for our environment. Since our economy has been based on the assumption that the environment is inexhaustable and can be infinitely abused, it will take a major shift on the part of industry, government and individuals to make the required changes. Nevertheless, the need for such changes becomes more evident every day, not just in scientific journals but in the impacts ordinary people can experience, whether it's changes in climate due to the greenhouse effect, toxic smog in Ontario, or maple dieback caused by acid rain.

As with any long term project, the key to changing our attitudes lies with education. Our schools should be teaching, not just as a one-time course but as a daily attitude, the principle of responsibility for the environment and the awareness that human health and well-being are inseparable from a healthy environment. Teaching children proper habits of waste disposal and recycling is a good way of reinforcing such an awareness.

In the short term, the Government of Nova Scotia can address the problem of litter through legislation and through providing the suitable infrastructure to facilitate recycling.

Legislation

1) The Government should pass legislation to ban the sale of beer and carbonated beverages in non-returnable containers.

2) Now that a New Brunswick company has developed a photodegradable plastic bag, legislation should be passed banning the use by retail outlets of nonphotodegradable plastic bags.

Inffastructure

The Government of Nova Scotia should work with the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities to put in place an infrastructure to encourage recycling. For example, all municipal dumps should have specially marked areas for recyclable materials. Areas served by garbage collection should have some suitable means to facilitate garbage sorting by the household, whether by supplying colour-coded bags or special bins at the collection point.

While such an infrastructure might be costly, and its full cost might not be recoverable from the recycled materials, the long-term benefits more than justify the costs.

Now I want to raise a local problem which I assume is of concern to other areas of the province as well. Until all the recommendations of the Task Force on Hazardous Waste are implemented, which I understand will not be until the mid 1990's, we have a situation in Cumberland County where hazardous waste is refused by municipal dumps. Since there is no information readily available to the public on how to dispose of toxic waste, and there are no collection depots for it, it all too often gets dumped in a field or a ditch or the woods where it becomes, in effect, toxic litter, and therefore falls within the terms of reference of this Task Force. I'm thinking in particular of containers used for industrial and agricultural chemicals. I would suggest to you that this is a matter requiring urgent action. The Highland View Regional Hospital in Amherst has recently opened a facility for burning hazardous waste but it may not have the capacity to handle all the toxic litter in the area. At any rate, there should be a prompt and extensive effort to inform the general public, and particularly heavy users of chemicals, on how and where they can safely dispose of toxic materials. Clearly toxic litter poses a threat to health and is of even more urgent concern than litter which is aesthetically displeasing.

I thank you for the opportunity to express these concerns, which I know are shared by a great many others. People recognize the need for changing our throwaway habits; it's up to government to provide the means that will enable us to do so.

Schedule of Presentations

LIVERPOOL

July 19, 1988

Town of Liverpool
Muncipality of the County of Queens
Margot Kleiker, NDP Candidate

Mayor Ron Lane
Town of Liverpool

Mayor Lane welcomed the Task Force to the community of Liverpool. He had not prepared a formal presentation, he wished rather to share some thoughts on the subject of litter.

Things were said in the 1970s regarding the environment that were quite scary then and it is significant that they are coming about now. Someone said that man did not inherit the Earth from their parents, they were here to guard it for their children. Over the past several years things and people's thinking have changed dramatically.

Mayor Lane would prefer to see problems solved by the actions of people rather than by government. Deposits on cans and bottles can provide an incentive for people to bring them back or for others to pick them up, which in some ways can be economically beneficial. Mayor Lane is in the hotel business and is also involved in the food service industry where they seem to throw away more than is consumed. The problem is the paranoia that portions should be individually wrapped. The food producers seem to be more into packaging than into other things which creates tremendous disposal problems.

Municipal units have now to consider the balance between the environment and development. In the past this has not been so easy with the limited funds available to towns. Liverpool is talking about landfill sites and recycling on a regional basis. Recycling can be the way of the future. Alternatively we will have no room to move. The Town cleans streets downtown daily and the other areas as needed. Approximately $100,000. is spent for clean up each year. At their annual Privateer's Festival Week they need more than one clean up per day, even though receptacles are placed at events. It can be quite frightening to see the mess the following day.

There needs to be more public awareness and the start should probably be made through school systems. During Municipal Awareness Week, Council and Staff go into the schools to explain town management. One question that was asked by students was the cost for clean up of streets. They were quite surprised at the total cost. This made them much more aware and consequently streets near the school area improved for some time.

We need to have pride in our home and beautiful province, especially for visitors. Several visitors say Nova Scotia is clean, however they also say it is not as clean as it was ten or twenty years ago. The major problem is the fast food industry with non-recyclable or non-degradable packaging.

Question Period

In other areas we learn that there is a problem with people dumping litter near disposal sites. Do you have problems like this?

We purchase disposal services from the County of Queens who have landfill and incinerator sites. There have been complaints regarding the incineration and the concern for health around the landfill sites. They are now looking for new sites. We are distressed by dumps created on the side of country roads. There is a law against it but the development officers and police say their time is taken up on more serious matters. It does seem criminal that people have no respect for the countryside.

What do you see is the municipal role and the tie-in with the Province?

The municipality should be responsible for local clean up. The Province regulates and should be expected to help. Communities have to take pride, however the littering issue is not high on the priority list.

You say that it costs $100,000. for clean up?

Yes. Clean up is done daily downtown and even on weekends. Other areas get cleaned up dependent upon events or comments from citizens. It is a matter of assignment of work of the town's public works department. They are at times tied up with major capital works and cannot always be available.

How much does that $100,000. mean to the tax rate?

Between 17 and 18 cents but funds come from other areas for the town's funds. When you look at dealing with fees for services rendered or recovery of costs, recycling could create a source of recovery.

Would the publicizing of these costs help?

Yes, it could.

Do you feel the residents feel there is a problem?

Young people do not seem to be as aware as they should. Senior citizens become offended with litter as they remember how things used to be. We have provincial laws regarding throwing litter from cars. The police probably say that they have better things to do. I often see people throw garbage from their cars and I feel like calling the police with the license numbers.

Should people be reporting others that litter?

It is best to get people to become aware themselves rather than forcing them. To act, the police either need to come across the situation themselves or need to receive a report.

Do you have garbage pick up here?

Yes, it goes out to tender. Clyde Whynot is doing a good job recycling. He operates Liverpool Recycling. The community is very interested in such an operation.

Paper is a major problem in landfill. Would your local recycler be able to pick up from the dump?

I believe there could be a health by law which prevents things being taken out from the dump once it has gone in. The basement of my hotel is often used as a paper recycling depot and once sufficient is collected, it is taken away with the funds going towards the church or boy scouts.

How does littering affect the tourism industry?

Generally, visitors feel Nova Scotia is not as bad as where they come from, however the compliments regarding the cleanliness of our environment are not as often heard as they were in the past.

Visitors from Cleveland, Ohio seem to be very concerned that we are abusing our environment.

It is easier to keep things clean than to clean up afterwards.

Why do you think we have such a poor showing here?

We often call public meetings and no one will show up but will show an interest six months after the fact.

Do you think the Province should be doing something about education?

It should be in the school programme. Perhaps part of the Social Studies programme. Economic factors should be considered too. For instance, littering could affect the tourism industry as people find paradise isn't as nice as it used to be and will perhaps think again before returning. People no longer are showing respect when they throw their refuse into the environment and sometimes right in front of our neighbours.

What should the fast food industry be doing?

They need to look at containers, especially plastics. The pressure is on the food service industry to use these containers by the public. Awareness should be created in the fast food industry. The tourism industry is primarily responsible to look after their "plant" (the beauty of the province that attracts their clients) and keep it in order and keep it attractive for the users.

Do you think that packaging restrictions in the fast food industry could be legislated?

It is best for people to work out solutions for themselves rather than have it done for them by government.

What points would you like to see the Task Force take to the Minister of the Environment?

I would like to see more of an awareness of ourselves and our environment. We are fortunate in Nova Scotia. We need to develop respect and an educational programme. Industry should be addressing the littering concerns. Municipal government should review recycling and waste disposal. The provincial government should share its environmental agenda. They are often quick to regulate before reviewing priorities.

Leon Robinson, Municipal Clerk
Municipality of the County of Queens

Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Question Period

How do you see the municipal units and private enterprises getting provincial incentives?

There should be a financial reward relating to the recycled tonnage. Municipalities should get incentives to help in the pick up of recyclables or for the building of drop off depots.

Do you feel that the fast food industry should pay a tax on non-returnable or non-biodegradable packaging?

There should be deposits on bottles but there could be some encouragement for the use of bio-degradable containers.

Should fines for littering be increased and police be requested to enforce the laws?

Yes, we should look at increasing fines and get the police to enforce the laws. Sometimes if an example is made by fining a few people, the message gets across.

Do you know of any voluntary programmes taking place in Queens County regarding the problem?

Not that I am aware of. A local barber has a church group sponsored paper drop off point in his business.

Are people complaining to local politicians about litter?

Not too much, but there are usually several comments about the mess on our highways.

What about dumping on back roads?

Yes, this is on the increase and it is very difficult to determine who put the garbage there. It is very difficult to control. The municipality will sometimes go and clean up especially where frequent littering takes place.

How do residents get rid of coarse garbage (the larger items)?

There are two special pick ups each year, however the garbage contractor will also pick up large items during the regular weekly roadside pick up. These are delivered to two sites.

Do you have paid staff picking up litter?

No, just the usual garbage contractors. Of course, the provincial highways throughout the County get cleaned up by the Province on an annual basis.

What about the beaches?

There are two main beaches in Queens County. Summerville Beach is a provincial park and it is patrolled and cleaned by Lands & Forests personnel. They have several garbage receptacles. At Beach Meadows, which is municipally owned, there are picnic tables and receptacles. However, people do not dispose of garbage properly. The staff will empty out receptacles weekly and at that time will clean up in the immediate area.

With regards to promoting recycling would the municipality want to see more information going out like The Clean Nova Scotia Foundation Recycling Guide?

Yes, that would be valuable and should be part of the educational package. We could send out pamphlets with our tax bills, etc.

Is it the Department of Transportation which pick up highway litter?

Yes, they use pink bags.

Would it be a problem then to separate out recyclables?

That shouldn't be too difficult to pick up these separately. The Derelict Vehicle Programme has been applied for by the County. The last time that it was here it was very successful.

People that we've talked to agree that we have a littering problem. There are many differing ideas on whose responsibility it is for coming up with the remedies. Where would you like to see the leadership?

Ron Lane - All parties. Leadership should be from the provincial government. With 66 municipal units they sometimes do not work in unison. The provincial highway clean up is only effective for a very short period.

Leon Robinson - One solution which touches on an economic factor could be to pay a bounty per pound of garbage picked up from the roadside. People on social programmes could get a lot of pride out of doing this. There could be some incentive for people on social assistance (if they weren't penalized on making additional dollars). This could be a very valuable approach.

Perhaps the taxpayer does not know how much it is costing them for clean-up?
European countries seem to be very clean. Either they have stronger regulations or have more pride.

Margo Kleiker
New Democratic Party, Queens County

Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Question Period

How do you think we could turn the problem with over-packaging around?
What comes to mind is education. Maybe a cost breakdown could be done to compare the cost of packaging and the contents, and make the public aware of this.
You referred to education for adults. How do we do it?
In Queens County there is a problem. The incinerator has to be moved. The question is, which community will receive it. This is a good opportunity to use a topic to provide an awareness of disposal problems in general. Perhaps we could encourage "squealers" who would call a telephone number to inform about people littering. A few arrests and heavy fines would get the message out which might have an incredible effect. We should be applying the law. Convictions would also help if reported in the newspaper.

From Audience - Can only remember one teenager about 25 years ago being charged for littering over the past 40 years. The Town has cleaned up today because of the Task Force coming but you'll still find bottles and cans in the cemetery and the Baptist church grounds and in the flower beds at the Pharmasave. The town's laws are not being enforced. There are litter receptacles but they get smashed.

Why are people asleep to this issue and not here at this meeting?
The Warden of the County has a fast food outlet and is one of the worst litterers around.

From Audience - Some provinces hand out litter bags with maps to motorists.
There is too much packaging with fast food items.

What do you think of the fast food industry taking part in education?
If you use a tray, they educate you to take them back and empty the wrappings from them. It would be interesting to see the result if fast food outlets were charged a fee for every piece of their packaging picked up as litter.
Your Party seems to be making this an important platform. Is it an important issue with other candidates?
The other two parties are now adopting this issue as their platform. Surveys have shown that the voters are concerned. The New Democrats have an Environmental Policy.
We should get the media more interested in the issue. Maybe have a feature on the bottle picker of the month. People can collect bottles and cans to raise dollars.
Why are liquor and wine bottles non-refillable/returnable?
Wine bottles are sometimes used for homemade wine.

There was good interaction with the audience in general about recycling, particularly with Maureen Woodlock's input of the KGB's experiences. One audience member suggested that reverse tippage fees could help finance recycling.

Clyde Whynot
Liverpool Recycling

Clyde Whynot has been recycling corrugated cardboard and paper for 5 years. At one time he would collect 5 tons every two months, now he collects 35 tons a month. He is also collecting glass and aluminum cans. In addition to his own pick ups from stores, church organizations and youth groups collect recyclables which they sell to him. Liverpool Recycling sends it on to Scotia Recycling. He hasn't got a destination yet for glass and aluminum.

Question Period

Have you approached the municipality with regards to recycling?
Yes, we are working very closely together getting stacks of information. This is part of Queens County's review of waste disposal. We are hoping to get into curbside recycling for all of the County. We are also approaching the Town of Liverpool to see if they could be interested.
Can you get into the landfill site to do recycling there?
We do not have a landfill site as yet, but don't see that there would be any problem in getting into the landfill site once it is built.
We have two people hired on and are able to get 80% of the cardboard from the local area before it gets to the incinerator by collecting from the stores. The local people are really catching on to this. We are hoping to establish collection points around the County in different communities. It will take a while before we get fully organized. In about a month's time we should have pick up boxes located around the Town of Liverpool.
Who should be taking the lead and what do you think are the priorities?

Margo Kleiker - There is no clear cut answer. I have just been to Holland where there are 14 million people in a space the size of Nova Scotia. They seem to have an integrated approach. When you go shopping, containers for recyclables are there. It is a regular part of day to day routine to conserve. So many things are recyclable. It's not so much an issue there as it is part of life. It was the government at some point that took the lead.

Audience - People get to a desperate point when they are choking on their garbage before they do anything. We need a media blitz. Each of us has to save the planet.

Bud MacLeod - It's no good waiting until someone is 37 years old to stop littering. Got to go to the schools. We need more patriotism in the country to get people to feel more pride. We should start recycling and educating now. By the time the kids are responsible they will be doing it naturally.

I had a real problem once. I had a truck load of decomposing fish. I couldn't get any help from my councillors as to where to take it. I'd hate to say where it ended up. We've had quite a fight with the municipality to try to get them to have a proper dump. Each year it has become more of an important problem. We finally got an incinerator. People just throw things out they don't reuse.

At my fish plant workers would eat their lunches in their cars in the yard and at the end of the day when the cars were gone there were always piles of litter, bottles and cans. I had tried to get them to stop dumping cans in the harbour as we need the clean water for our processing. In the yard I would stoop down to pick up the litter. They would be watching me. I thought they would take the hint. No way, they were beyond the age of learning. During the week that I was out there picking up litter after them, on the Thursday I finally saw someone dropping his litter out the car window. I went up to him and said "Oh, you're the fellow who's been throwing litter around the yard all this week. You can pick it all up. If you don't, I'll get someone else to pick it up for you and take it off your wages". It got the message across. When people come down to visit my plant now, they often comment on how clean my yard is.

Audience - Children catch on quickly, however the anti-littering message is not reinforced at home. We have to get the message across. We are all part of the problem and can be part of the solution. The provincial government must show a strong leadership role. In New Zealand garbage bags have to be bought from the municipality at about 25 cents each. These have to be used for putting out garbage. The remaining recyclable waste is picked up for free by using a blue box system. The more that is recycled the less goes into the garbage mix, thereby cutting down the cost to the homeowner.

There was an enthusiastic general discussion regarding innovative ways to recycle.

APPENDICES

Supporting Documents

LIVERPOOL

Municipality of the County of Queens
Margot Kleiker, Queens County, N.D.P.

BRIEF TO THE
TASK FORCE ON LITTER ABATEMENT

JULY 12, 1988

SUBMITTED BY:

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF QUEENS
P. O. BOX 1264
LIVERPOOL, NOVA SCOTIA

The Municipality of the County of Queens are pleased to have the opportunity to present their views on Litter Abatement to your Task Force.

Litter is a real problem in our Province and one that is to be taken seriously. To this end, we provide information in the following areas to the Task Force for consideration when making recommendations to the Minister of Environment: (1) reduction of potential litter at source; (ii) recycling of items that will not break down in a landfill site or through incineration; and (iii) development of appropriate legislation including regulations and provision for the enforcement of these laws and regulations.

Appropriate action in the above areas will be a great stride to ensure a clean Nova Scotia. Correcting the problem requires cooperation from the producer of the materials, the persons disposing of them, and direction from the Provincial Government.

At the present time there are a lot of materials being placed in areas in our County that cause a real litter problem. The materials range from convenience packaging, non-returnable bottles, cans and plastics being disbursed along our highways, to coarse garbage such as fridges, stoves, car bodies, etc., placed in off-roads along the highways. The aforementioned is very unsightly to the general public including tourists. As well, the cost to the taxpayer is on the increase to have the highways cleaned of the litter and coarse garbage removed from the off-roads. It should be pointed out that Queens County has made provisions where these materials can be deposited.

Once the Task Force has gathered the information on the litter problem throughout the Province, then consideration can be given to solutions to provide a clean Nova Scotia.

Reduction of litter at the source could be accomplished by such methods as having bottling companies use returnable bottles; convenience containers to be biodegradable when possible so they will decompose easily. Other items such as paper products, plastics, and metal cans, etc., should be recycled, and to this end recycling programs must be encouraged and established. These would include an appropriate collection program and have convenient drop-off points for the public. A recycling program will require the cooperation of the public and both the Municipal and Provincial levels of government. The public will be responsible to separate the materials; the municipal unit to ensure the transfer of materials to a transfer site; and private enterprise to look after the recycling process.

The Province will be required to provide: (1) incentives to municipal units and private enterprise for the recycling programs; (ii) the development of appropriate legislation including regulations to reduce litter at the source; (iii) provide for recycling programs; (iv) changes to present legislation to increase fines for offences and provision for the offender to clean up the debris and dispose of it in the appropriate manner.

To accomplish the desired results, a comprehensive education program is required to be put in place to ensure the goal is reached.

In summary, the problem of litter can and must be dealt with in the immediate future. The reduction at the source is most important. Recycling programs must be put in place with the Province providing the incentives and guidelines. A Province-wide education program will be required. Changes to existing legislation and new legislation will have to be put in place to ensure a clean Nova Scotia.

We feel certain your Task Force will give consideration to the points brought out in this brief, and we hope our comments and suggestions will be helpful in your deliberations.

Presentation to the Task Force on Litter Abatement by the
New Democratic Party of Queens County , P. O Box 72, Port
Medway , N. S.
Liverpool, July 19, 1988.

Members of the Task Force on Litter Abatement:

We appreciate the existence of this task force and the opportunity to present our input. More than just the litter on our streets, we hope that it encompasses also the more far-reaching benefits to be gained from better waste management.
For example we include the saving of energy by using recycled materials rather than primary resources. It takes 70% less energy to manufacture glass from recycled glass and it takes 33% less energy to use recycled paper rather than trees.
Also air pollution is reduced 37% with recycled glass and paper from recycled newsprint produces 74% less air pollution
Landfill space is reduced since paper products make up half of a city's garbage.
The dollars saved in waste disposal can be put towards the cost of recycling and new jobs created in the process.

While we appreciate the effort now going into improving an obvious litter problem and welcome the opportunity of making our thoughts known to the government, we hope that this will result in quicker action and more positive results than we have seen in the past. It is apparent from the literature available on this subject that all these problems have been identified before and countless solutions put forward, with little or no response from Government.

I would like to approach this problem from three points of view:

1) education of the whole public;

2) prevention of litter through a change in our packaging processes;

3) and better processing of waste materials from our own homes.

Education

By this I don't mean just the education of school children, although this is important. Much more important is the education of adults as to what alternatives are available in packaging and bottling. Also necessary is the education of householders of the high costs, short and long term, of the environmental problems produced by materials which they are now throwing out. It will only be if the consumers demand it that manufacturers and retailers will provide goods in recyclable containers. Consumers must be made aware not only of the ecological effects but of the added costs of "over-packaging". More needs to be done to increase the awareness of school children of what they can do. I would like to tell you of one incident which illustrates what can be done. The pupils of four grades at Mill Village school recently had a community clean-up in which they collected 125 large bags of litter from the roadside. We wonder what happens when these children go home and see their parents act carelessly with litter. We believe that the average householder in Nova Scotia is in favour of clean streets and a healthy environment but may not see the connection between these and their waste disposal practices.

We feel that this public education process should be a shared responsibility of all levels of Government.

Packaging

The basic problem seems to begin at the manufacturing and retail levels. What can we do to induce distributors to package with an eye to recycling? In North America, in 1986, more dollars were spent on food packaging than the nation's farmers earned in net income to produce the food. (Christian Science Monitor - 9 July 1987)

This province already has on its books a law which requires that consumers be guaranteed a choice between refillable or non-refillable bottles. According to the Ecology Action Centre, this factor alone contributes to the figures quoted in my opening statement of pollution and energy wastage. The problems of over-packaging need to be approached at every level. Manufacturers have to be convinced that the public really doesn't want the degree of individual packaging that we have today. This will only happen if the consumer makes known his or her displeasure and this will only happen through education about the long-term affects of over-packaging.

Waste disposal

The last step in the chain is to provide adequate means for re-cycling of waste materials: for example, glass, paper, aluminum, plastics. Whether this can be done through private business or whether government agencies must intervene, is not yet clear. In many parts of the world recycling is considered good business, however due to the sparse population of this province a certain amount of government assistance might be needed.

It is apparent that money spent in this direction, by whomever, will reduce expenditures required for the present land-fill methods and will at the same time reduce our atmospheric and land-use problems.

I think that everyone would agree that the litter along our highways, discarded from moving vehicles, is unacceptable. However, it still goes on. Surely this is just a matter of law enforcement and surely we have enough pride in our province to insist that the existing laws be enforced. Government should show greater leadership and initiative in providing areas for waste disposal such as litter disposal facilities along highways.
We understand that some small-scale recycling of paper and glass is underway in Queen's County. How many people know how to go about it? This effort should be supported and expanded. The principal improvement needed is accessibility and information.

Conclusion

All of these suggested procedures are aimed at the main purpose of this task force, that is to improve the appearance of our community and the quality of our total environment. Benefits to be realized include the attractiveness of our community to ourselves and to tourists, safety on our roadsides and beaches, protecting our trees as the supplier of our oxygen, protecting the ozone layer and in the long run, a saving of money.

Schedule of Presentations

YARMOUTH

July 20, 1988

Brian Noble, NDP Candidate
Tusket River Environmental Protection Association

Brian D. Noble, Educator, Hobby Farmer
New Democratic Party Candidate for Yarmouth

Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Question Period

You say that all plastic containers should be eliminated?
They always put things in plastic bags at grocery stores. They should return to paper bags as it would be bio-degradable.

You suggest that half a fine should go to the person reporting it?
I do not see fines or court action as a major deterrent. The RCMP wouldn't want to be bogged down with all these calls.

What responsibility does the fast food industry have to contribute to the solution?
In the case of alcohol, the person serving liquor has a certain amount of responsibility if their client is intoxicated. Perhaps this kind of thinking could be applied to fast food. Most of the fast food litter gets deposited at the place where the person finishes his/her milk-shake, etc. The fast food industry could advertise in stores and on television to tell people not to litter. They have such a responsibility.

You say that the fast food industry should be advertising?
I have a 5 year old daughter who will not throw anything on the ground. Perhaps that's from watching Sesame Street. It has come across to her over the television. She is also dead against smoking. Again, from the impact of television. She'll tell adults "You are going to die". Her education has come through television. Fast food stores could tie in an anti-litter pitch to their advertising.

What do you think the fast food industry could do?

Walter Boudreau, Dairy Queen Franchisee - The industry has to recognize that there should be a partnership with government and all phases of the industry. It is easy to put a tag onto advertising. Our advertisements are made in Canada, though it is not that difficult. They are 30 or 60 seconds spots. Could tag on an anti-littering message to the end, but you have to recognize that this would only be one thrust. People must learn that they should have the same attitude towards their own local environment as they would when they are a visitor to say Disneyland etc.

How much recycling goes on in this area?
The only group I know is the Tusket River Association. They get involved during Environment Week. I think they've been checking out the starting of a recycling programme themselves. Otherwise, recycling in non-existent here.

Walter Boudreau - The Yarmouth Development Corporation which acts on behalf of the downtown area has tried to generate interest by putting up awards for school children with varying success. It needs a commitment from all of us. By first getting children committed they will make an impact on the older ones, as has been seen by smoking. We need to reach our children through media and cooperation within the fast food industry. Then we may be successful. We certainly don't need a band aid approach.

How is garbage collection handled here?
It is handled privately. The downtown business people have built garbage receptacles and then badgered the Town to have them serviced. As a private businessman I can show you litter three feet away from a receptacle. I can also show you adults who dump ashtrays in my parking lot. It takes you back when it is a mature adult doing the littering. On the street people say it is the teenagers, but this is not always the case.
What are the municipal restrictions with regards to littering to you as a businessman?
The Town has an Anti-Litter and Unsightly Premises By-Law. Responsible operators

always sweep their sidewalks once a day. We do a walk-round survey of our sight three times each day. Sometimes it doesn't get done when the store is very busy until a little later but this is only human nature.

Fast food companies are very concerned about their litter image and most particularly when it occurs on their lots. We at Dairy Queen do not use the clam shell container like Mcdonalds. Ours is foil with an attachment.

Does your industry realize that there is some pressure from the public?

Government should encourage a national committee to create a dialogue between those regarded as main offenders. They will then make sure that packaging is designed to meet special requirements. The franchisee has to use the product listed by the franchiser. A national forum of packages and users could make a difference.

Do you think a national conference of people involved would help?

Yes, there are a number of areas where such a dialogue would result in positive action, resulting in a set of priorities, e.g. packaging could be graded from a standpoint of biodegradability. The large manufacturers should be part of the process. Governments should assist in research and development to develop such packages.

Responsible industry is waiting for the call. If the recognition was there that the public was demanding action, the industry would then act. It is not the number of comments that reach the industry, it is the number that reach the right people at the right time in the right place.

What ideas do you have about handling fish waste?

Brian Noble - I think there is an experimental group looking into fish wastes for fertilizers in the area. Fish reduction plants create concern from neighbouring residents which is quite understandable as it is not always done properly. Fish waste can be prevented from slopping out of trucks. There are so many things that it can be useful for. The aquaculture industry is really growing now and fish wastes can be produced into meal to feed this industry. Fish waste is the ultimate challenge for us in this area as is the waste from the fox, mink and pig industries. The problem is that it costs so much to do the trucking. Some subsidy should be given to farmers using these products. The fish waste industry says they can handle all of the material that is available and turn it into pellets for the aquaculture industry.

The municipal unit here have banned on-land dumping of fish wastes. If we recycle properly, as with toxins in general, it can be handled. The questions around hospital wastes need reviewing as well. If we keep putting this into the garbage we are going to end up with more problems.

What is the municipality doing to keep Yarmouth clean? How much does it cost?

Brian Noble - Not a major concern. They have a larger problem with raw sewage. This is why they are doing the Lake Milo project. This is a long range project which will take years.

Right now the municipality has several dumps that people take their garbage to or have private contractors move it for them. There would be a great deal of cost saving if 90% of it was removed to recycling and the dump sites would last much longer. However, it is easy not to worry about this problem now but in the years to come it could be quite a problem.

The Town looks reasonably clean. It seems that Yarmouth is doing something about the situation and it must be costing you something?

Walter Boudreau - The Yarmouth Development Corporation is very concerned about litter and cleanliness and the appearance of the downtown. This is part of our ongoing upgrading and promotion of our area. The clean up costs are far in excess of what people would normally believe. The majority of people are going their happy-go-lucky ways, not concerned about the 9 or 10 points that clean up costs on the tax bill. They really would not appreciate the cost savings resultant from recycling.

The Council does recognize that the Town has to be kept clean especially as Yarmouth is a major entry point for visitors from the United States. They recognize that it is a civic responsibility. Also there are thousands of dollars spent by business people in keeping the Town looking tidy.

The Town and business people would like to see a lot more done, however union contracts make it difficult to respond to specific requests. With the Town cooperating with the private sector some of the work can be done, but other downtown projects have been shelved because of C.U.P.E.

We've been discussing recycling and packaging in fast food industry. In your opinion as an operator, are there materials being used that could be recycled or returned?

I'm sure that the simple answer is yes. I am not even conversant enough to know which of my containers is recyclable. I do know that (having been brought up during the war and conserving at that time) that aluminum foil can be recycled. We used to have our ball of foil which grew larger and larger during those war years. The industry could address this. We do not supply soft drinks in cans. Ours are provided in paper and plastic cups but that does not mean industry won't respond. There is a need for a partnership of industry and the people.

What do you feel about the loss to some industries, e.g. Domglas if deposits are imposed?

Brian Noble - We need to develop priorities. Jobs can be developed through recycling businesses.

There was a general discussion regarding recyclables in various industries and the use of recycled products.

Does this issue have any interest in the press?

Kent Blades, Cape Sable Guardian - This has received some attention in our area. There is quite a lot of interest in pollution. Harbours are not usable for taking water for the fish plants now. Litter being thrown from boats at dockside is a major recognized concern. This is comprised of bait boxes, used oil and oil cans. Bilges are pumped at wharf side so it is a subject that gains a lot of interest. However, harbours are a federal jurisdiction and perhaps that is why this problem isn't addressed to the Task Force. The public is aware of the plastic six-pack collar that is a real problem in the sea with fish getting caught in them.

Walter Boudreau - Industry could use their take out bags as litter catchers and they could be encouraged to take them back through the fast food outlet for them to put into their dumpsters. This would really be at no cost to the operators and would give them a lot of brownie points. Dairy Queen spends a lot of money behind the scenes supporting children's hospitals. It is a tremendous thing to support but it is not done just for goodwill purposes, it is a good promotion.

Kent Blades - The Orbit programme in Alberta is a good example of encouraging litter abatement on the highways. The Department of the Environment could tie in with the provincial Department of Transportation to get involved with such a programme. We need highway side litter disposal units in Nova Scotia.

Why don't they have lay-bys on Nova Scotia highways?
That would be great. Would be well within provincial jurisdictions to do so as they own the land. It would be easy to do and to control.
We are conscious in Barrington municipality of pollution and the problems with garbage disposal and wharf side garbage. We now have receptacles on wharves and the problems of harbour garbage have become well publicized over the past two years. It certainly is an issue that the municipal councillors are working on.

Walter Boudreau - Regarding the municipal situation, this area became more tuned in on the environment because of pollution of recreational lakes. Municipal garbage disposal services have been affected by politics between the Town and the municipality in developing proper wastes disposal. The Town is not permitted to burn whereas the county can. This highlights the ridiculous situation of some environmental regulations. Pollution control becomes an economic thing once the fish plants can't get clean water from their own harbours.

Jim Purdy
Tusket River Environmental Protection Association

Mr. Purdy read from a prepared text.

Question Period

What do you think of approaching unions to get them involved with recycling and reducing litter?

That would be fine on a community level. A member could go to the head man and ask to talk at the next union meeting. Once people are alerted to a situation it is easy to get them involved.

Tell us how your pilot recycling programme will work?

We have selected a community of 21 households where everybody has made a commitment to separate out their garbage so we will be collecting all of that. What we need to do now is to find out how we can get the recyclables back to the industry as it is already beginning to pile up. There is not any money in it. We found that out during Recycling Week last year. It takes a lot of work to generate very few dollars. One of the problems is to find a storage place where a tractor trailer can be backed in.

There was a general discussion on recycling. Depot sites seem to be a real problem. Various ideas were touched on dealing with this.

Am I right that you feel that the recycling efforts should start in the community?

Yes. The Department of Transportation picks up litter from the highways. If there was less littering due to recycling the dollars saved by the Department of Transportation could be put towards recycling.

You are not talking about banning non-refillables or imposing deposits?

We generally feel that these should be reviewed. In some places all bottles even those that are not refillable have deposits.

Is the Town of Yarmouth asleep to these issues? Don't people in this area perceive there is a need to act?

People in Town don't have to put up with the same litter problem. We in the rural area end up with the fast food litter.

Perhaps we are de-sensitized about local issues due to televisions dwelling on far away issues?

Probably. Retailers are partially responsible. We don't have an option when buying items that are over-packaged.

How do we get the public to complain?

Maybe the packaging industry should be asking the people. We all know we are over-packaged.

What about beverage cups?

It is a real problem to get paper cups. All you can find are styrofoam. We have tried real hard and now we have found a couple of sources. The paper cups happen to be for soft drinks but they seem to be okay.

Do you think a conference would be a good idea?

Yes, that would be nice. We would want to be part of that.

What would you suggest the Minister of the Environment should do to encourage concerned groups to get involved with recycling?

People have to care. They have to care about the environment. If the existing laws were enforced it would make a difference. The seat belt law has only a $35 fine on first offence yet this is being very effective. I live 7 miles outside of town and travel in each day and nearly always see people litter. Police travel the same road. I wonder why they don't see them too.

If they hired someone special to patrol the highways and give out tickets for littering it would probably pay for itself. The Department of Transportation employs a weigher who doesn't seem to be very busy though his job probably pays for itself. It would just take a few reports of fines charged in the newspaper to make a difference.

I live near a country store. The ditch is a real mess on either side of the store. Highway littering always occurs in the presence of an adult (children don't drive), so an adult is responsible for all highway littering. I don't remember anyone ever being charged for littering in this area.

Bob Goodwin
Coca-Cola Distributor, Yarmouth

If you go to all returnable bottles I would have to have twice the warehouse space and for two extra guys and another vehicle on the road. The price certainly wouldn't go down.

I figure that the life of a glass refillable bottle is about eight fills. Bottles explode when glass is worn out.

Question Period

What do you think about plastic bottles?

They could be degradable. Sobeys have a bottling plant without any returnables. Deposits work in other places as long as you have got somewhere to take them to.

Do you feel that the soft drink industry has a responsibility?

I am a distributor. I don't make decisions. I buy and sell. Returnables are a pain. Truck loads out and truck loads back. If you are going to force us into it you've got to force everyone into it including the fast food containers that end up as litter.

Do you think that the soft drink industry should be doing more in educating people about proper disposal?

That wouldn't be my decision. The government came up with the 50/50 law that only lasted two months. Stores don't want to get involved. Too much money gets tied up in it. Small shops can't afford it.

What do you think we should do with our legislation. What would it do to you if the present legislation was enforced?

It would make it hard on me and also hard for the stores. Money would be tied up in inventory. There are all kinds of charges in returning bottles and deposits.

There was a general discussion regarding the recycling of glass.

The County garbage pick up is handled by private contractors at $1.75 per week to the homeowner. The garbage trucks are a major problem as garbage often drops off.

Bob Goodwin explained that as a Coca-Cola distributor he buys from Halifax. The market for cans is decreasing. People prefer the plasti-shield bottle. With the increase in fast food outlets the amount of fountain pop is generally increasing also.

APPENDICES

Supporting Documents

YARMOUTH

Brian Noble
Tusket River Environmental Protection Association

SUBMISSION TO

THE MINISTER'S TASK FORCE ON LITTER ABATEMENT

JULY 20TH, 1988

RODD'S COLONY HARBOUR INN

BY

BRIAN D. NOBLE

PREAMBLE

IT IS WITHIOUT DOUBT THAT, THE EFFECTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT ON THE LIVES OF THE CITIZENS OF NOVA SCOTIA ~~ARE~~ is BECOMING MORE AND MORE EVIDENT. THE YARMOUTH AREA OR PERHAPS BETTER, SOUTH WEST NOVA SCOTIA HAS ITS SHARE OF MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS. THESE CONCERNS HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO THE FORE-FRONT OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. THESE CONCERNS INCLUDE THE RIO ALGOM TIN MINE AND ITS NEAR TOTAL POLLUTION OF THE TUSKET RIVER SYSTEM, ACID RAIN, FISH WASTE, THE CLEAN UP OF DORTOR'S LAKE AND LAKE MILO AND LAST THE EVENTUALLY CLEAN UP OF YARMOUTH HARBOUR. THESE MAY SEEM LIKE MAJOR JOBS THAT WILL REQUIRE GREAT AMOUNTS OF MONEY AND WITH ACID RAIN, ONE WE MAY HAVE LITTLE CONTROL OVER.

THERE IS ONE AREA, HOWEVER, THAT NOVA SCOTIANS DO HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL OVER: LITTER. IN THIS AREA WE HAVE THE POWER TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WILL MAKE NOVA SCOTIA A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE AND A MUCH MORE ATTRACTIVE PLACE FOR TOURISTS TO VISIT. OUR STREETS, VILLAGES AND RURAL COMMUNITIES ARE COVERED WITH JUNK-FOOD CONTAINERS, NON-RETURNABLE BOTTLES, GENERAL GARBAGE AND WHATEVER ELSE OUR CITIZENS DECIDE TO THROW AWAY. ONE NEED NOT GO INTO DETAIL ABOUT THE BENEFITS THAT THE ELIMINATION OF THE LITTER WOULD BRING.

ONE OTHER AREA THAT WE HAVE CONTROL OVER IS THE CONCEPT AND CREATION OF AN EFFECTIVE AND REALISTIC RECYCLING PROGRAM. ONCE AGAIN THE BENEFITS OF SUCH A PROGRAM NEED NOT BE EXPLAINED IN ANY DETAIL. THE MONEY SAVED IN THE ELIMINATION OF WASTE THAT NOW FILLS OUR LANDFILL DUMP SITES AT AN ALARMING RATE AND THE SAVING OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES ARE BUT TWO EXAMPLES OF THE BENEFITS OF A COMPREHENSIVE RECYCLING PROGRAM.

IN THIS SUBMISSION I WILL ATTEMPT TO GIVE ONE MANS OPINION OF HOW SOME OF THE PROBLEMS FACED IN THE AREAS OF LITTER AND RECYCLING MAY BE DELT WITH. THERE ARE NOT SOLUTIONS TO ALL THE PROBLEMS AND PERHAPS NEVER WILL BE, HOWEVER, GIVEN PROPER DIRECTION BY GOVERNMENT THOUGH LEGISLATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS AND CONCERNED CITIZEN'S GROUPS MUCH CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED.

THE PROBLEM OF LITTER

ONE OF THE MAJOR PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH LITTER IS THE FACT THE THE CITIZENS OF NOVA SCOTIA DO NOT SEEM TO TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THEIR PROVINCE. A FRIEND RECENTLY TOLD ME OF TALKING TO TWO AMERICAN TOURISTS. THEY SAID ONE OF THE MOST BEEUTIFUL THINGS ABOUT NOVA SCOTIA WAS 'HOW GREEN EVERYTHING IS'. HOW WE CONVINCE NOVA SCITIANS NOT TO LITTER IS A DIFFICULT TASK. IT CAN BE DONE, IF WE TRY HARD. THE PROBLEM SHOULD BE FACED ON TWO FRONTS: A.) LONG TERM EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

B.) LEGISLATION THAT WOULD GIVE NOVA SCOTIANS LESS TO THROW AWAY AND/OR ENCOURAGE MORE TO PICK IT UP.

THE SHORT TERM SOLUTION TO THE LITTER PROBLEM CAN BE HELPED WITH LEGISLATION THAT WOULD HAVE AS IT GOAL THE REMOVAL OF 'LITTER CAUSING' ITEMS. THIS WOULD INCLUDE A NUMBER OF SIMPLE LAWS. SOME EXAMPLES ARE:

A.) THE SALE OF NO BEVERAGE IN A NON-RETURNABLE BOTTLE
B.) THE ELIMINATION OF PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS & PLASTICS EVERY WHERE POSSIBLE
C.) THE REMOVAL OF STYRO-FOAM FROM FAST FOOD OUTLETS
D.) THE PLACEMENT OF A MINIMUM 'RETURN' DEPOSIT ON RETURNABLE CONTAINERS

THESE SIMPLE MEASURES WOULD HELP ELIMINATE SOME OF THE LITTER PROBLEM.

THE LONG TERM GOALS TO HELP REDUCE LITTER WOULD INCLUDE A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT ITEMS SUCH AS THE FOLLOWING:

A.) THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF NOVA SCOTIANS TO 'STOP LITTERING'. THIS PROGRAM WOULD ENCOURAGE CITIZENS NOT TO LITTER AND WOULD INCLUDE SEVERAL AVENUES:

1.) AN ANTI-LITTER CAMPAIGN ON RADIO/TELEVISION/PRINT MEDIA
2.) A CHILREN'S PROGRAM GUIDELINE THAT WOULD INCLUDE ANTI-LITTER MESSAGES ON CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS
3.) AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ~~OF~~ FOR SCHOOLS
4.) A PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE FAST-FOOD OUTLETS TO ADVERTISE ANTI-LITTER MATERIALS.
5.) INVOLVEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS , BOTH LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL IN ANTI-LITTER CAMPAIGNS.

IT WOULD BE THE GOAL OF THIS SEGMENT OF THE 'TOTAL PROGRAM' TO ENCOURAGE NOVA SCOTIANS TO BE MORE LITTER CONSCIENCE. THE LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE WOULD SHOW NOVA SCOTIANS THAT GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO SERIOUS ABOUT LITTER.

ONE THIRD AREA AND ONE THAT I DO NOT NECESSARILY FEEL WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL IS ONE OF STIFFER FINES AND PENALTIES. I DO NOT KNOW IF FINES ARE IN FACT A DETERENT AND I SUSPECT THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ARE NOW PUSHED TO THEIR LIMITS WITH OTHER PROBLEMS. ONE THING SUGGESTED TO ME WAS A 50-50 SPLIT OF FINES: THAT IS, ONE HALF OF THE FINE WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE PERSON WHO REPORTED THE PERSON WOULD DID THE LITTERING (UPON CONVICTION). WOULD THIS WORK? IT MAY BOG OUR COURTS DOWM SO MORE IMPORTANT CASES WOULD BE FURTHER BACKLOGGED.

THE PROBLEM OF RECYCLING

LITTER AND/OR WASTE IS A MAJOR PROBLEM. WE HAVE LOOKED BRIEFLY AT THE PROBLEM OF LITTER AND PART OF THAT PROBLEM IS OF COURSE -- WASTE IN GENERAL. AS PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED OUR LAND FILL SITES ARE FILLING UP AT AN ALARMING RATE AND SHORTLY MAY BE OUR NEXT BIG HEADACHE. FROM AN ENVIRONMENTAL POINT OF VIEW WASTE IS A PROBLEM BECAUSE OF WHAT IT CONATINS AND WHAT THE LONG TERM EFFECTS THAT LEACHING FROM WASTE SITES INTO THE GROUND WATER MAY BE. FROM A CONSERVATIONALISTS POINT OF VIEW, WASTE IS THE CONTINUED WASTE OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES. A PROPER PROGRAM OF RECYCLING COULD DO MUCH TO HELP BOTH OF THESE CONCERNS AND TO HELP REDUCE LITTER AS A 'BY-PRODUCT'.

RECYCLING RUNS INTO PROBLEMS FROM THE WORD GO. THE MAIN PROBLEM ASSOCIATED WITH RECYCLING IS THAT IT HAS YET TO BE PROVEN 'COST EFFECTIVE'. THIS REMAINS THE ONLY MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK TO RECYCLING. HOW DO YOU MAKE MONEY FROM RECYCLING? I DO NOT KNOW IF RECYCLING WILL EVER BE 'COST EFFECTIVE' IF WE THINK IN TERMS OF ONLY DOLLARS. IF ONE TAKES INTO CONSIDERATION THE SAVING OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE COST OF LANDFILL SITES AND THE PREVENTION OF POSSIBLE LONG TERM CONTAMINATION THAN I FEEL THAT RECYCLING COULD BE CONSIDERED VERY 'COST EFFECTIVE' EVEN AT A LOSS IN DOLLAR TERMS. THUS THE KEY POINT TO RECYCLING IS THAT DOLLARS SAVED AND PROBLEMS PREVENTED SHOULD BE WEIGHT AS 'DOLLAR VALUE'.

THE SECOND MAJOR PROBLEM WITH RECYCLING IS HOW DO WE GET ALL CITIZENS INVOLVED SO THAT THE PROGRAM IS MORE LIKELY TO BE SUCCESSFUL? ONCE AGAIN THE LEADERSHIP MUST COME FROM GOVERNMENT. THIS LEADERSHIP MUST BE AT THE MUNICIPAL AS WELL AS THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL. SINCE MUNICIPALITIES WOULD ALSO BENEFIT FROM A REDUCTION OF WASTE, THEY SHOULD TAKE SOME OF THE SHARE IN PLANNING, OPERATING AND ORGANIZING RECYCLING PROGRAMS. HOWEVER, IT IS THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT THAT MUST SEE THAT THE PROGRAM IS CARRIED OUT PROVINCE WIDE AND THEREFORE HAVE THE FINAL AUTHORITY IN ANY RECYCLING PROGRAM.

THE EASIEST WAY TO START A RECYCLING PROGRAM AND TO MAKE IT EFFECTIVE IS TO PLACE A VALUE ON THE WASTE SO THAT IT BECOMES WORTHWHILE NOT TO THROW IT AWAY. THIS VALUE WOULD BE DETERMINED BY THE ACTUAL VALUE PLUS A VALUE THAT WOULD BE BASED TO THE 'BENEFIT OTHER THAN DOLLARS'. THIS WOULD ENCOURAGE INDIVIDUALS AS WELL AS GROUPS TO RECYCLE WASTE. IT COULD BE OUR DREAM TO ONE DAY SEE PEOPLE TAKE AS MANY CONTAINERS BACK TO THE GROCERY STORE AS THEY TAKE OUT.

PART OF THE IMMEDIATE PROGRAM THAT COULD BE ORGANIZED WITHOUT A GREAT DEAL OF TROUBLE WOULD BE THE CREATION OF GOVERNMENT SPONSORED RECYCLE CENTERS IN ALL SMALL COMMUNITIES. THESE COULD BE GOVERNMENT RUN CENTERS OR PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS OR COMPANIES (WITH GOVERNMENT DOLLAR ASSISTANCE) THAT WOULD SORT, STORE AND PREPARE FOR SHIPMENT ALL TYPES OF WASTE. ONCE IN PLACE THAN LOCAL ENVIRONMENT GROUPS, CHARTITABLE ORGANIZATIONS OR INDIVIDUALS COULD START RECYCLING ALL FORMS OF WASTE. IT WOULD ALSO HELP REDUCE LITTER IF CHILDREN/ ADULTS PICKED UP BOTTLES, CANS AND OTHER LITTER KNOWING THAT THEY COULD GET A FEW DOLLARS AT THE RECYCLE CENTER.

I WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO LIST ALL THE THINGS THAT COULD BE RECYCLED. HOWEVER, IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT ORGANIC WASTE COULD BE RECYCLED BY COMPOSTING AND THAT THE PROBLEM OF CHEMICAL WASTE COULD BE BETTER HANDLED IF THEY WERE RECYCLED AND HANDLED PROPERLY.

ONE PROBLEM FACED BY SOUTHWEST NOVA SCOTIA IS RELATED TO FOX AND MINK WASTE AS WELL AS PIG WASTE. AT PRESENT THE GOVERNMENT GIVES A 25% REBATE TO FARMERS USING MORE THAN $200.00 WORTH OF CHEMICAL FERTILIZER. PERHAPS GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSIDER GIVING SOME FINANCIAL HELP TO [redacted] FARMERS INTERESTED IN THE USE OF ANIMAL WASTE AS AN ORGANIC FERTILIZER. MANY LOCAL ORGANIC FARMERS WOULD BE INTERESTED IN COMPOSTING ORGANIC WASTE. THE 'SUPREME' AIM OF A RECYCLING PROGRAM IN SOUTHWEST NOVA SCOTIA WOULD BE TO RECYCLE FISH WASTE.

CONCLUSION

THE MATERIAL PRESENTED TO THE TASK FORCE ON LITTER ABATEMENT LEADS ONE TO DRAW SEVERAL CONCLUSIONS:

A.) THAT THE ENVIRONMENT HAS BEEN TOO LONG NEGLECTED AND MUST BE GIVEN TOP GOVERNMENT PRIORITY.
B.) THAT THE REDUCTION OF LITTER WILL COME ABOUT ON TWO FRONTS: THE REDUCTION OF THROW AWAY MATERIALS AND THE LONG TERM EDUCATION OF THE CITIZENS OF NOVA SCOTIA.
C.) THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF IMMEDIATE THINGS THAT CAN BE DONE
D.) THAT THESE IMMEDIATE THINGS MUST BE ENACTED INTO LEGISLATION WITHIN TWO YEARS
E.) THAT RECYCLING MUST BEGIN AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE
F.) THAT THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS RELATED TO LITTER INCLUDE THE VALUE OF RECYCLING.
G.) THAT GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE BE GIVEN TO RECYCLING PORGRAMS
H.) THAT LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO USE RECYCLING AS A MEANS TO RAISE FUNDS/AS WELL AS OTHER ORGANIZATIONS
I.) THAT RECYCLING PROGRAMS INCLUDE MUNICIPAL IMPUT
J.) THAT RECYCLING PROGRAMS INCLUDE PROVISIONS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT LOCAL NEEDS SUCH AS THOSE SPECIFIC TO SOUTHWEST NOVA SCOTIA.

NOTES FOR AN ORAL PRESENTATION ON LITTER ABATEMENT

My name is Jim Purdy and I am here on behalf of the Tusket River Environmental Protection Association.

It is our intention to submit a detailed written brief prior to your July 29th deadline. However, we would like to make a few comments to you at this public meeting.

The litter problem is not unique to South Western Nova Scotia, however, we suggest that is is of special significance here for two reasons.

Firstly, it is significant because this area includes a primary port of entry to Nova Scotia for American tourists. Tourism is one of our major industries and it does not seem to be logical for us to promote our Province and South Western Nova Scotia as a tourist attraction when most of our highways, streets and recreation areas, including our shorelines and harbour approaches, are used as though they were intended for garbage disposal.

The second reason we might suggest would be that South Western Nova Scotia is the home of the largest fishing fleet in this Province. For many years it was considered that the solution to pollution was dilution and that the immense volume of the ocean would conceal our refuse forever.

It is, now, common knowledge that this is not the case, as evidenced by a walk along any of our shorelines.

Nova Scotians from all walks of life realize that we, in our daily activities, are contributing to the litter problem by the very demands that we make for goods and services.

The time has come for us all to work together to address this problem and this Task Force is a forum for an important first step.

The Tusket River Environmental Protection Association, TREPA, for short would like to offer the following suggestions for your consideration.

1. EDUCATION

We suggest environmental education must begin in our schools at the primary level. Only then can our young people be made fully aware of all of the implications of a careless disregard for the environment. An environmental awareness course should be offered in our shcools as part of the curriculum, basic at the primary level, and expanding progressively through high school. Our adult population must be re-educated, a monumental task to say the least. Industry can contribute through environmental shop committees in their workplace, similar to on-the-job safety committees. Union locals could participate by setting up environmental education committees. Local community groups could join in by offering adult education programmes. Our fisherman Associations and Co-operatives could set up educational programmes within their organizations which could educate their members to the dangers of "continually dumpiing their waste over the side!".

2. LEGISLATION

More stringent regulations must be put in place and these regulations must be enforced. Increased penalities for littering highways and waterways must be established. We believe that this should be the first step in the process as man reacts when it affects him directly at the pocket book. The seat belt law is a recent example. Motorists now buckle up as they know this regulation is enforced and violations prosecuted.

3. THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

The business community must also share the responsibility and business participation is of special significance because it is they, who benefit moneterially from convenience packaging and nonreturnable containers. Business participation is also important in keeping with the recommendations of the Brundtland Commission Report and the Report of the National Task Force on the Environment and the Economy. The theme of these two important studies is that to ensure sustainable development we must ensure that we sustain our environment. In this regard, we recommend that industry, government and consumer groups sit as equals at a "round table" established to find solutions to the increasing problems caused by convenience packaging and littering.

Finally we recommend implementing the three R concept - Reduction; ReUse; Recycling.

Reduction - Consumers must be encouraged to reduce their use of these materials which are not biodegradable. They must also be encouraged to reuse those items which are readily adaptable to reuse.

Recycling - is perhaps our best approach to remedy the effects of the litter problem. Our area of the Province, at present, does not have facilities in place which would make recycling cost effective.

We feel that government subsidization is a must in order to launch a successful recycling program of any magnitude.

We are pleased to announce here this evening, that TREPA has embarked on a pilot recycling project here in Yarmouth County. This project is SITE SPECIFIC to a small rural community of 21 households. This community was selected due to the total committment of it's residents to the project. We are hopeful that we can use this project as an example and encourage others to join in on a communty by community basis. We feel that once established and with the logistics in place, that the recycling concept will promote itself and become a part of our daily life.

In closing, we would like to offer a challenge to local government and industry, to join us in an open round table discussion tasked with laying the foundation for a broader and more comprehensive recycling program for South Western Nova Scotia.

We hope our challenge will be accepted.

Thank you.

Schedule of Presentations

MIDDLETON

July 21, 1988

Kingston Glass BUsters
Joseph Fritz Enterprises
Tarina Bombrick
Hankinson Enterprises
King's Recycling
Annapolis Field Naturalists
Keith Collins

Roger Caron
Kingston Glass Busters

Caron brought an Ontario blue box. That province is in the forefront in recycling. There is no reason why no-one else can do it. We should follow their lead. Other provinces are getting into it.

Caron demonstrated that pop bottles are found on the roadside. You don't find deposit bottles on the roadside as there is someone who will take it back. He showed some bottles that could be reused. Mason jars are reused over and over again for various things. Wine bottles are often reused in Europe. Locally, home brewers use them.

Caron read from a written presentation.

Question Period

What if we encouraged recycling? What would be the impact if we all get involved?

We need to make sure that all the recyclables can be handled first or to develop the market.

What if we went to deposits/refillables?

Do we want garbage in our environment.

We saw bags and bags of litter at your depot that had been picked up along the highways?

We separated the garbage out of it to obtain the bottles and cans.

Are you aware in this area of the highway litter law being enforced?

I have never seen any report in the paper.

Would you see recycling depots started by government?

It is too much to expect the individual to do it. We use Social Employment Programmes to hire people.

How could government help you?

They could provide full time employment. We need a full time coordinator. We now give Maureen $100 per month to coordinate the project. We need someone to promote recycling in schools. We could use someone full time to smash bottles. The Department of the Environment should provide a building and two workers for each community.

Gerd Burger
Joseph Fritz Enterprises Limited

This company has been in business for 46 years, recycling glass, carpet, aluminum and other things. There is only two years left for Kings County landfill site. We look too much towards government to do things. They should enforce the law. The 60/40 law is not enforced on bottles. They should enforce this law now or eventually fade out throw away bottles.

Annually we recycle over one hundred tons of cardboard from the New Minas and Kentville area which is saved from the landfill site. One large chain store puts all garbage together in its compactor and it is impossible to separate. Laws should say that it should be sorted out at the source. Government has to enforce the law and educate people. People should be charged tipping costs at landfill sites. No-one wants a new landfill site in their own backyard. Only way is to be strict and charge people to tip (especially the large companies). This way they will learn to reduce their garbage.

I prefer to do my own thing. People too often look for handouts from government. Government could perhaps be involved in assisting the handicapped to work in recycling. This would give them dignity and goals.

Question Period

What about areas where there aren't recyclers? Could government help there?

In Ontario they have big metal containers that are used as depots . We could use this concept and it would help to clean up the environment. I have 32 non-profit organizations dropping things off to my business. I don't want to see it going into the landfill site. Government can do publicity and tell people where to recycle. The industry that does the recycling is a long way away and some subsidy to get recyclables there would be a good way of government involvement. Too often handed out cash gets wasted.

How important is the education of younger people?

Very important. Should start in the schools. Encouragement in schools would stop them from littering. The enthusiasm is spreading like wild fire.

Has any publicity been given to the cost of landfill sites?

There has been a study done in Kings County on landfill and this breaks it down. It should have more publicity. People take garbage on Saturdays to the dump and if charged $5 per trip they would sort out those things that could be recycled.

You say that the government's role is to enforce standards. Should the law be changed?

I would like to see it go to all deposit bottles. This couldn't be done in one week but it could be phased over two years.

Do you feel the government could help curbside recycling?

This funding could be carried too far with money being thrown in every direction. It is not the households that fill up the landfill. It is the industries. I don't see spending alot of money. People have to first prove they can do something.

Do you think it is the wrong attitude to think that we have to make money out of recycling?

I don't look at it as a money making gain. We need to cover costs. Recycling is a necessary thing to do.

Audience Comments

Blair Williamson, Joint Marketing - You mentioned the handicapped. We have to get into the recycling business, not to make money but to give work. In Red Deer, Alberta , this is a main source of income for the handicapped. There are 28 workshops in Nova Scotia that could get involved.

Tarina Bombrick
New Minas
Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Question Period

How would you like to see people refrain from littering?

In New Minas we don't have litter receptacles . There is talk that fast food containers will be bio-degradable. It will take a lot of public education.

Do you think the Department of Transportation should be assessing the disposal of litter?

There should be stopping places. This would make highway driving safer.

To drive off to the side?

Government should take this into consideration.

You suggest that litter offenders should work at recycling depots. Could they handle all the litter offenders?

It would be one way of getting the help the depots need.

We've heard about difficulties in recycling at landfill sites. Does this seem to be a common problem?

I believe that Joe Cogswell will be here and he has been involved with that. The debate seems to be on technicalities and on who pays for what. In the past other people have had problems with the legislation here.

Has the littering situation changed in the last year?

I feel much more optimistic. Things seem to be coming along. People are much more aware. We could all do more by reading and understanding things more.

How do we get the media turned on to this issue?

Good question. In Kings County this is a real issue. My Editor is receptive to environmental issues. Community newspapers will respond more to groups that are doing things for the betterment of the community rather than individual efforts.

General Discussion

Don Keddy, Middleton - Education is definitely one answer that should be regarded as a major resource. Our woods are being depleted by newsprint manufacturing. A lot of the responsibility lies with municipal politicians. Need to regard the environment as a priority. They should review the waste of good land for landfill. We make a frightful mess of our environment. It has to be dealt with. We need education. It must be the local authorities that deal with it and it must start in the schools. If County and municipal councillors show an interest the media will follow which will bring it up to the public's attention. We need a two-pronged approach; that of cleaning up of our environment and preserving our beautiful countryside.

Gerd Burger - The posting of bills on utility poles should be restricted. I tried to get some removed and got the runaround from one department to another. They don't get taken down after events and often end up as litter.

We live in a TV era which heavily affects our buying habits. Don't you think that the fast-food people could promote anti-littering?
A good example of the TV influence on a national level is the Participaction Programme. We should look at something like that for littering. People generally know right from wrong.
How do you see the funding for promotion/education?
We pay a lot of taxes in Nova Scotia. Funding somehow has to come from government.
Do people know how much clean-ups cost us?
The Valley looks clean because the grass is growing. New Minas gives $200 to the Scouts for a clean up.

Betty Hankinson
Hankinson Enterprises Ltd.

Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Question Period

What would be the best way of improving the writing of a garbage contract?
They don't pick up everything. Even during the Spring clean-ups. Some things are picked up and some aren't.
You say that the cost of disposable items should be increased in price?
If they want to throw things away they should pay for that.
Wouldn't it be consistent if the consumer paid more for a non-returnable bottle?
Yes, to cover the cost of disposing of it. As litter they have to be cleaned up. Some of this expense has to be covered.
What about paper?
There is no problem to recycle it once it is separated.
Is part of the problem a lack of depots?
Most areas have places that will take paper. If people bring things, we'll buy them.
Do you see the government helping in the set up of depots?
Not really. Government should not be in to that. Private people can do that.

Do you see the government involved in education?
I am not one for giving grants.

Please elaborate on your Bridgetown Project
By the first of the month all garbage will be weighed and the recyclables will be separated from it. We are asking residents to separate out their wet garbage. We have the garbage contract for Bridgetown. It normally goes to the County incinerator. The contract continues to February during which time we will be able to assess the value of recycling directly from the garbage collection. Our trucks will collect the garbage as usual and bring it to our depot/transfer station, sort it and the leftovers sent to the incinerator. We'll recycle as much of the rest as possible.

You have taken this on without any government help?
We are being paid to do the garbage anyway. We don't need any other money. Our additional costs will be recovered from the returns on the recycled goods. We think at this time we can get rid of everything except for the plastics, though we will save them also.

What items are you thinking of recycling?
Cardboard, paper, glass, some metals.

Keith Collins (on behalf of Joseph Cogswell)
Kings Recycling

He has been researching cardboard recycling in Kings County for two years. The emphasis has been on obtaining cardboard from the industrial/commercial sector. They have been recycling at the landfill site. Commercial waste represents 1/3 - 1/2 of the waste. Obtaining cardboard from commercial enterprises is more effective than obtaining it from households. If you learn the pattern of what is entering the landfill site and when, it is easier to separate and recycle. For example, a load of primarily cans would be relatively easy to recycle magnetically. A problem is the attitude that if it's thrown away, it's worthless. While cardboard may cost $100/ton to ship, these costs alone should not be examined but the diversionary (from the landfill site) savings should also be considered. Cardboard, about 7,000 tons per year in Kings County, represents a rich vein in the garbage. About 3,000 tons of it comes from industrial sources. Cardboard recycling is feasible in the County because the market, New Minas Pulp and Paper, is close at hand. New Minas Pulp and

Paper uses 97% recycled products which is the highest percentage in Canada. Cardboard is not included in the Ontario recycling programmes due to lack of markets. Cardboard recycling should also be feasible in Halifax because it is close to Hantsport.

Question Period

It sounds so logical, why isn't it working?
Due to a lot of red tape.
What kind of red tape?
A lack of municipal support which they don't understand because recycling reduces solid waste disposal costs. It took three years to get an agreement with the County.
Why?
An image problem: recycling garbage is viewed as a "long hair" activity and it is hard for people to relate waste and value.
Why is the attitude not to allow people to go in landfills?
They don't like people scavenging. Their planned operation will be located at the gate. Because there is no tipping fee, there may be no incentives to reduce garbage loads. They need a five year lease to get financial backing. Recycling is in conflict with incineration. Incinerators need cardboard as fuel and without it they would have to use oil as fuel. Council is expected to vote on the agreement at its next meeting. The Province should provide direction on solid waste management, i.e. recycling or incineration.
Is rent being charged for the building?
Yes, $50 for the building. The problem is the lack of capital and no diversion credits.
Do you have a truck?
Yes, to haul the cardboard.
Where did you get your baler?
It is leased from Scotia Recycling.
Why don't you get cardboard from stores?
With stores, you would have to pick the cardboard up.
How much cardboard is spoiled by other garbage?
Not much is spoiled at industrial sources such as Michelin.
Is sorting cardboard from the waste intensive?
Not really.

How many people would be employed in the operation?

From four to six to start.

Isn't the trend away from the use of incineration because of the emissions?

Yes.

If you can recycle a certain percentage, could you give money to the municipality?

Because of initial capital costs, there won't be very much money to be made in the first two years. Once the infrastructure is in place, you could begin recycling products of successive values.

Joe Cogswell - Comment - He has experimented with making compost. It was approved by Agriculture Canada. He does it on a small scale.

What is the compost like?

Dirt, according to Collins. Joe's compost company has counterparts in three or four other locations.

Where is the compost sold?

Places like nurseries and Canadian Tire stores.

Where would composting occur at a larger scale?

At all dumps.

What should the Task Force be doing?

They should be talking to the municipal councillors including discussing the idea of diversion credits to recyclers.

Keith Collins (cont.) - Over 1,000 tons of rubber from Michelin is buried in the landfill each year. There is a market in Japan. If he can enter the market, Michelin will cooperate.

What other markets are there for cardboard?

None really, but hopefully the market will open up in Europe.

He feels that the market price of $100 ton is artificially low due to the limited competitive nature of the business. The price may go higher if they can guarantee a steady supply. New Minas Pulp and Paper may also be willing to provide the cardboard prices. Cardboard recycling is currently feasible at $80-$100 per ton.

What is the rate in the province?
Maybe the Province could set the price.
How would public attitudes change toward litter if recycling goes ahead?
The more recycling that is done and people understand it, the more the attitudinal change will expand. The public is absorbing the industrial costs of disposal. Industry should be internalizing the costs.

Public Question - Do you use a straight truck or a compactor?
A straight truck. Compactor trucks are for household waste.

Public Comment - Separating garbage is a problem and the economics are questionable. Reverse tipping fees may extend the economics of recycling.

Gini Proulx
Annapolis Valley Field Naturalists
Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Additional Comments - The Annapolis Field Naturalists is an organization still in the development stage. Naturalism is seeing, enjoying and protecting nature.

Task Force Comment - There is a problem with enforcing fines for littering.

Question Period

Should education first or legislation or both be used to address the litter problem?
Try education first and if that doesn't work, then toughen the litter legislation.
When should education start?
Grade 5 or 6.
What about parental attitudes that discourage kids?
That's why they suggest the family approach to naturalism, "Pack it in, pack it out".
Your tax proposal (see presentation) sounds bureaucratic, would that discourage recycling?
It would provide more incentive.

Task Force Comment - Manufacturers now pay 12% to the federal government plus hospital tax which brings it to about 23%.

Why only bottles and cans, why not Tetrapak or glass juice containers?
She hadn't really considered it.
Should it apply to other beverage containers?
Yes.
Did you realize there is a tax on fast food containers?
No.
Why not have deposits on newspapers?
They might not be the litter problem.

Task Force Comment - But newspaper does fill up landfill sites.

What about plastic containers, i.e. yogurt ones?
Are they a problem when incinerated?

Task Force Comment - Diapers can stay in landfill sites for 500 years without disintegrating.

Public Comment
- How do you know it's 500 years?
- He doesn't like the idea of reporting on people who litter.
- What about rights of people who get cut by glass?

Keith Collins
No written presentation.

He referred to two videos he has seen, one shows a plant which recycles 40% of the waste stream and one which recycles 70% of the waste stream.

Referring to the 1987 Kings County study on recycling, he concluded it was not put together well and that there were mistakes in the mathematics and the interpretation of the data. These all went against recycling and gave recycling the thumbs down. He gave a brief description of the Ontario curbside separation programmes.

He noted that in some places, organic wastes are also separated. He suggested a special day could be set aside for collecting batteries and hazardous wastes. The conventional view on curbside separation is negative but if you don't try it you will never know. An experimentation period is needed. A number of factors have to be realistically examined including the social and environmental costs of waste disposal. Problems with the Kings County report include:

- It says only 7% of the garbage would be diverted with household separation but the study only includes 30% of the County population.
- Their stated recovery rates are unrealistically low.
- The study is based on bad assumptions.
- He disagrees with the participation rates used.
- The garbage production figures are low.
- They use a low cost for newsprint.
- The report says aluminum isn't worth recycling.
- They use the wrong amortization period.
- The report ignored commercial and industrial wastes.
- They don't incorporate a diversion fee.

If the figures are re-worked, recycling could bring in $800,000 in gross revenues, with positive net revenues and not negative as the report suggests. A capital grant to get started would be beneficial. A problem with incineration of garbage is the production of dioxins, e.g. the chlorine in paper when heated produces dioxins.

Question Period

What is the role of the municipality?
Municipalities tend to concur with provincial directions.
Are municipal officials reflecting public attitudes?
They are reflecting what they think are public attitudes.

How much is the cost of an incinerator?
Kings County would need a larger one than the one in Prince Edward Island which cost $15,000,000.

Task Force Comment - Are the municipalities that stupid that they would go for a $15,000,000 incinerator rather than a $40,000 loss from recycling?

Public Comment - We have a public conscience but the governments don't seem to want to move because industry is very powerful - at some point, something has to be done.
Annapolis County is putting in an incinerator. The real social, environmental and health costs are not being considered.
There is a point where other people's attitudes infringe on individual rights. This can't be continued. Many successful programmes exist and many are successful from the ground up.

APPENDICES

Supporting Documents

MIDDLETON

Kingston Glass Busters
Hankinson Enterprises
Annapolis Field Naturalists

Report to the Task Force

As a result of a meeting of the KGB (Kingston Glass Busters) Coordinating Group on June 14, the following suggestions were brought forth to be made to you, the Task Force. Any clarification of points would be willingly given. The KBG CG realizes it has not expertise in formal presentation techniques.

1. We do not feel that in preamble it is important to convince anyone of the need for recycling and/or better environmentally conscious ways of caring for our garbage. There are reams of material on this subject.

2. It would seem that action on some of the laws now existing would eliminate some of the problem rather than a need for a lot of new laws.

3. There should be courses in the schools on environmental studies and an awareness of the need for recycling cannot start early enough. By High School there should be mandatory courses on the subject that include practical applications. This would of course involve the Dept. of Education.

4. People should know how much they are paying for their garbage removal and not have it hidden in the taxes of the homeowners of the municipality. Everyone should have to pay for the privilege of garbage service.

5. The people of N.S. and therefore the provincial government must be convinced that recycling and responsible garbage management must become a way of life.

6. Depots such as the KGB should be set up in each community by the government. These should not depend on voluntary initiative alone although volunteerism could contribute to the operation of same.

7. There should be a coordinator for each community to set up such depots and to be paid to continue to coordinate activities in the area. This would include public education on the suject of recycling and responsible garbage management.

8. Packaging should be labelled as to what type of product is used in the package manufacture..eg. steel, aluminum, P.E.T., high density foam etc.

9. There should be the reinstitution of the V.I.P. (Volunteer Initiatives Programme) through which people on social assistance or U.I.C. would be paid a bonus if they did volunteer work, thus providing incentive.

10. There should be an option for a person to refuse junk mail.

11. Cooperation among various agencies and departments working in recycling and for a healthy environment.

12. There could be a Provincial Newsletter similar the one produced in Ontario.

13. There needs to be public advertising about recyclers already in operation in the province. This advertising would be paid for by the Province.

14. Recycled material should be well labeled so the consumer wishing to use recycled goods may easily find out which ones are.

It is hoped that these suggestions will be passed on in the format of your final report. Indeed any or all of the KGB team would be prepared to elaborate on any of these points.

Respectfully submitted

Maureen Woodlock

Louise Simons

Roger Cyr

Roger Caron

Madam Chairwoman & Fellow Task Force Members:-

I am Betty Hankinson, representing Hankinson's Enterprises.

There is a lot of GARBAGE being generated out there that can and could be re-cycled.

We have been in the Garbage Collection business for the past 2 years. During this time we began to realize that there was a lot of garbage being burned at the incinerator that could be re-cycled. e.g. cardboard, newsprint, glass, rags, wood, metals and of course plastic. Plastic is one thing that more information is needed on for the purpose of re-cycling. We obtained our Salvage Yard License in 1983 and have been re-cycling metals and cars since that time.

We are setting up a PILOT PROJECT in the Town of Bridgetown to re-cycle all of their garbage. By weighing all garbage collected, taking out the re-cyclable and then weighing the balance to be incinerated. By doing this it should make a considerable difference in the amount to be incinerated. We have asked that residents seperate their wet garbage from all other items. This should make the process relatively simple.

Presently we take 30 loads more or less of garbage to the incinerator to be burned each week. By re-cycling all garbage collected this could be cut down considerably. A few months after starting this PILOT PROJECT in Bridgetown we should have a better idea as to what percentage of the total garbage is re-cyclable.

Having DEPOTS where people can dispose of a lot of this so called garbage should improve the litter problem. We now have people dropping some garbage at our place to be sorted. If it has already been sorted we have been purchasing any items that can be re-cycled.

In order to get a better control on litter and garbage, Municipal Units will have to up date their Garbage Collection Contracts. Rewrite their contracts to include picking up everything that is garbage and not just household garbage, which is how some contracts are now written. It would be a lot simpler for the Contractor and certainly a lot less frustrating for the TAXPAYER. Residents can get upset if they thing someone is going through their garbage. But this could be eliminated if they seperated it all before being picked up by the Contractor. Rules along these lines may have to be legislated by the Provinical Government in order to have some sort of uniformity in all Municipal Units across the Province.

We live in a time of DISPOSABLES that need to be DISPOSED of. The way to over come the cost of disposing of the DISPOSABLES is to have it built into the cost at time of purchase.

The individual has to be more responsible for some of this. A lot of people seem to feel that it is their God given right to have the government look after everything. But who do they think the government is? Where garbage is concerned the famous last words of many are -- "NOT IN MY BACKYARD".

Presentation to

The Minister of the Environment's

Task Force

on

Litter Abatement

by the

Environment Committee of the
Annapolis Field Naturalists

Middleton, N.S.

July 21, 1988

Presented by

Gini Proulx
Chairman

Introduction

The Environment Committee of the Annapolis Field Naturalists appreciates this opportunity to appear before this Task Force on Litter Abatement.

On March 7, 1988, a group of approximately one hundred people met in Annapolis Royal to discuss the possibility of forming an Annapolis Field Naturalists Organization. The enthusiasm generated at this meeting prompted the group to form committees to investigate the various aspects of naturalism. Although our group has not been incorporated our Committees have been active -- we plan to incorporate this fall.

The current state of our environment is of great concern to our members. In a questionnaire completed by prospective members, two-thirds of the respondents placed environment among their top five interests, along with conservation and the study and observation of birds, plants and animals. During our many field trips an abundance of litter has been seen in unauthorized dump sites, along beaches, embankments, woods roads and highways. This litter, as well as being an eyesore to both residents and tourists, poses a serious threat to wildlife, livestock and water sources.

In June of this year, our Environment Week Committee, sponsored a contest open to Grades 5 and 6 students of the Annapolis District Schools and staged an Environment Week display on June 4th at the Farmers Market in Annapolis Royal. I would like to take this opportunity to pass along to you some comments and observations made during these projects.

1. The contest resulted in a number of impressive and thought-provoking posters, poems and short essays dealing with acid rain, air and water pollution, hazardous waste, litter and endangered species. The best of these were published in a double page spread in the May 31, 1988 issue of the Annapolis Spectator and all were displayed at the Farmers Market as part our Environment Week display. They indicated a growing awareness among this impressionable age group of the need to protect our environment. It also demonstrated the ability of volunteer groups, schools, government departments and small businesses to cooperative for a common goal.
2. At the Farmers Market event an effective display depicting the recycling process for glass and various types of paper with their respective finished products was viewed with interest and a favorable endorsement of the concept was given.
3. Visitors to the Environment Week display eagerly picked up booklets, brochures, pamphlets and Environment Week buttons, provided to us by the Federal and Nova Scotia Departments of the Environment.
4. Several citizens of Annapolis County expressed concern about the unsightly dumping of rubbish at several unauthorized sites in the county as well as general roadside litter, such as bottles, cans and packaging material. For example, a Litchfield resident advised us she had complained to the Nova Scotia Department of Health concerning illegal dumping at the beach embankment. The Department erected signs prohibiting dumping but, in the words of the complainant, dumping continued in a "misguided independent defiance" of the law. We have

informed a number of these concerned citizens of the Department of Environment "Summer Student Clean-Up" for Annapolis County headed by Robert Balcom at the Middleton Office.

The establishment of the Minister of the Environment's Task Force on Litter Abatement, in May of this year, was applauded by our members because of its mandate to examine litter problems in order to maintain a good quality of life for Nova Scotians and to preserve the aesthetic values of the Province.

Members of the Annapolis Field Naturalists volunteered to form an Environment Committee to study the litter and waste disposal problems as we see them. Our Committee includes Phillip & Clarice Muntz of Lake LaRose, Willmer Horsfall Jr. of Upper Clements, Alice White and Gini Proulx of Clementsvale, and Len & Dianne LeGard of Middleton. In representing this Committee, I would like to relate to you some of the problems and suggested solutions that our discussions brought forth:

A. Change of Legislation

1. Nova Scotia Beverage Containers Act

Problem: This act is out-dated and does not address the problem of the growing number of non-returnable containers for beverages and other food items or the materials from which they are made. With no cash deposit being paid on non-returnable containers, there isn't the incentive on the part of the consumer to return them for a refund, so they are often tossed along the roadside or sent to municipal dump sites.

Solutions discussed:

(a) expand the act to include packaging of take-out and convenience foods to ensure that the materials used are safe: during manufacturing; use and disposal; or recycling

(b) in the case of non-refillable beverage containers, a cash deposit to ensure its return for re-cycling or disposal

A theoretical alternative to the cash deposit might be a provincial tax at the manufacturer's level that would be mostly passed on to the consumer (75%). The Consumer would be re-imbursed by a recycling depot (50%). The recycling depot would sort (possibly making use of government assisted employment programs for the handicapped, summer students, unemployed, etc.) The sorted containers would then be picked up by the recycling broker who would pay the recycling depot (say 75% of the tax originally paid by the manufacturer). Ideally, after the recycling broker received payment from the recycler, the shortfall between actual value of the recyclable material and the actual cost to the recycling broker could be made up from the provincial revenue paid by the manufacturer.

B. Enforcement of Legislation

1. Section 56 of the Motor Vehicle Act

Problem: In spite of legislation forbidding the throwing of litter from vehicles on our highways with fines and possible jail terms as the penalty for disobeying, littering along our roadways remains a problem. We hear of few convictions.

Solutions Discussed:

(a) increase the penalty to $500 or $1000 for the first offence

(b) provide for a "Citizen's Watch" - if an occupant of a vehicle is seen littering and the witness can get the license number of the vehicle, the driver could be charged and the witness~~er~~'s statement used as evidence.

(c) provide collection bins at intervals along the highways and near the approaches to public beaches where motorists can safely drive in and deposit their accumulation of garbage. These bins could be cleared regularly by the municipality

2. Section #42 of the Province's Public Highways Act

Problem: This legislation forbids dumping and littering on the highways or in the ditches. In addition to a fine of not less tha $50, a person convicted of a violation is liable for the expense of the clean-up. Still, dumping of household appliances, furniture, automobile parts and building materials (things not picked up weekly by municipal garbage collectors) takes place on abandoned public highways, secondary roads and privately-owned wood roads. Ditches and road edges are dotted with potato chip bags, cigarette packages, non-returnable pop bottles. Few convictions under this section have come to our attention.

Solutions discussed:

(a) increase the penalty to $500 or $1000 for the first offence

(b) provide for a "Citizen Watch" - publicize a toll free telephone number where reports can be made. The person reporting may have witnessed the dumping or recognize the materials that were discarded illegally

(c) publicize the convictions and

(d) provide more frequent roadside pick-up of non-household garbage.

C. Disposable Containers & Recycling

1. Bottles & Aluminium Cans

As noted under suggested change of legislation, item A, page 3; our committee felt that all the above should be returnable with a cash deposit and/or be recyclable. A compulsory sorting of recyclable materials in each household, with curb-side pick up the same day as regular pick-up; seems to be the way to make recycling work. An added tax to the consumer (or the re-direction of present taxes) on pop, and monetary returns from the recycling, to help defray the costs of transporting.

2. Fast Food Containers and Snack Foods now sold in Foil or Plastic Bags

We feel that these items should be biodegradable and if not recyclable, safely reduced for disposal.

3. Newspaper, bond paper and cardboard

We recommend curbside pick-up, monetary returns from same to help defray costs.

D. Public Awareness & Education

1. Public Awareness

Problem: Public attitudes on littering are improving but there is still a long way to go.

Solutions discussed:

Publicity campaigns that

(a) stress the responsibility of the individual in reducing litter

(b) promote the three R's: - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

(c) publicize the "litter laws" and penalties for offenders

(d) publicize toll ~~fee~~ free telephone numbers were concerned citizens can report offences and

(e) have knowledgeable representatives speak to organizations such as naturalists, Home and School, youth groups, schools, etc.

2. Education

Problem: To our knowledge, at present, there is not a standardized approach for the teaching of environmental issues in the province. Much is left to the attitudes of individual teachers.

Addition to item 2. Education (page 7)

Solution: Introduce a new environmental program to be included in the curriculum in Nova Scotia schools. In addition, the Department of Education through theNova Scotia Museum take the initiative in establishing naturalist organizations in all regions for nature study and environmental monitoring. Encourage families to participate together. Naturalists share a reverence for the natural, unspoiled landscape. This attitude is lacking in those who litter our countryside with garbage. Working together we can bring about the much needed "Attitude Adjustment" that will eliminate "Litterbugs" in this province.

Summary

In Summary, the Environment Committee of the Annapolis Field Naturalists would like to inform your Task Force that it is our opinion that stiffer regulations must be put in place to stop the barrage of litter which dots our landscape. As naturalists, we derive great pleasure in exploring the diverse habitats of this scenic province. Nova Scotians enjoy a healthy environment. Let us ensure that future generations enjoy a like environment.

Gini Proulx
Box 23
Clementsvale, N.S
B0S 1G0

Schedule of Presentations

SYDNEY

July 25, 1988

County of Cape Breton Board of Health
Environmental Technology Class, U.C.C.B.
Total Recycling
J. Wesley Stubbert, Councillor

Jim O'Hanley, Chairman
Cape Breton County Board of Health
(on behalf of the Municipality of the County of Cape Breton, Cape Breton Joint Expenditure Board and the Cape Breton County Board of Health)

Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Jim O'Hanley summed up his presentation by stating that there is a great concern for litter control at the County Council meeting. With regards to the province's recycling programme they have very strong feelings about the need for higher returns than the one cent on bottles and cans. Kids today will walk around a penny rather than pick it up. Other places in the United States will give five cents per can. An increase would have a dramatic effect on the accumulation of litter.

Question Period

Who would you suggest would be the main collection agency for handling containers?
This would be handled by local bottle exchanges. Cans would be separated and sent to recyclers. The five cents extra should be borne by the public.

Some people say that paper is the main constituent of landfills. Why not put deposits on paper as well as cans?
Newspapers are not part of the litter problem. Although the fast food packaging is a problem, however it is difficult to regulate a hamburger container. We need to look more strongly at penalties for this.

Do you mean all non-returnable containers?
All containers. Even aluminum cans. There should be no non-returnable containers. The paper containers are more difficult to monitor. All metal and glass containers should have a value.

It should be a reward system?

Exactly. Even an aluminum can on the roadside would have a value.

What do you conceive as the municipality's role and do they have existing legislation?

We are very frustrated in implementing our by-laws. The RCMP do an excellent job but are dealing everyday with a large amount of by-laws. They are reluctant to get involved with municipal by-laws. We have by-laws regulating garbage dumping. We have to go through bags to find out who it is that's doing the dumping and we have had some success in laying charges. Most offenders then go and clean it up and we drop charges. The RCMP are busy enough. We do not have a municipal police force.

Do you recommend that all containers be returnable and that manufacturers be responsible for disposal. Who do you regard as the manufacturer?

The manufacturer of the beverage. The cost could be shared with the container's manufacturer.

You mentioned that education is the least expensive way of solving the problem. Don't you think that before we go through the legal process we should try to get people to be cognizant through education and family discipline - shouldn't this be where we start, then go to legislation?

I strongly agree. Primary school kids have respect for the environment. This decreases as they get older. It is best to start at home. There are long term benefits from education. Honey attracts more bees than vinegar.

You seem to be coming down heavily on fines and enforcement?

I do feel that fines can be applied to those people who refuse to be educated.

Lino Polegato, P. Eng.
Instructor, University College of Cape Breton
Environmental Technology Class

A four part presentation was made by students as follows:

Legislation	Halia Sashoko, Margo Peddle
Education	Robert Chetwin, Gordon Gillan
Recycling	Ron Dunphy, Paul Newman
Other	Asta Sodys, Kevin Kingsbury

Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Question Period

Would you start up a college recycling programme?

Cans and bottles could be saved at the cafeteria.

It is a good idea to place containers by our highways. How do you overcome the problem of them overflowing?

If they are located at service stations they could be handled by their own garbage collector. There should be more containers located in high littering areas.

Service station people in Cape Breton don't feel like putting out garbage cans as people will just come by and dump their household garbage there.

Government should place the cans and take the responsibility of emptying them.

The best ideas often come from students. Regarding the need for coordination between different government levels regarding the environment do you have suggestions or examples of how this could work?

As not all municipal units have anti-littering by-laws, each one should first address the problem then create a uniform law and penalties to encourage consistency across the province. The provincial government could put together basic regulations as a guide for each municipality. This would be a minimum standard.

Kirby Applin
Total Recycling, Sydney

Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Question Period

Do you think we should be weighing and charging for dumping garbage to encourage recycling?

Yes. There should be a fee structure so that the person taking it to the dump knows that it costs "X" dollars to dispose of it. Many other places charge for tipping.

Is recycling going on at local landfill sites?

Not at this time. The concept has not been favourably accepted by the City but I am now working with the County on developing a system.

Could you sort out recyclables at the site?

Yes, but very difficult. I have started a project in a Sydney subdivision to see if people will be willing to get involved. I believe I can get between 25-30% participation and this will act as an example to the municipality.

What does it cost to establish a viable business enterprise in recycling?

It is difficult to estimate the costs. To be involved in paper, glass and cans you would need about $100,000. for equipment but the business would involve about ten people.

The City Council does not seem to appreciate the need for recycling. What do they perceive to be the barriers?

I do not understand that myself. However in the past years the City has worked on recycling programmes with Scouts and Guides which have not been successful.

If half the residents of Sydney were willing to separate their garbage will it be viable to set up a business?

Not at first. You would need some subsidy to cover capital costs. The subsidy would decrease over say three years as the participation rate builds up.

Would have thought that the municipality would be interested in the reduction of materials going to the landfill site?

They should adopt a sensible approach.

What about government development incentives?

Most programmes cover manufacturing or processing and they do not believe that recycling fits in to this category.

General Discussion - Don Grant (audience participant) - Most litter does not come from households. Litter is found on the highways, outside convenience stores or on the streets. At the lookouts on College Mountain the view is beautiful but just look down and see the trash. The liquor stores are the biggest contributors to litter with all their wine, beer cans, coolers and rum bottles etc. (not the beer bottles). University premises are messy and are a real dump - how can you educate? You need to start with the family units. Get them to improve habits.

What type of educational system would you like to see in schools?

UCCB Student - Start in the pre-schools. Use television advertising like Woodsy Owl in the United States. By starting at an early age children will then start to educate their parents.

J. Wesley Stubbert
Cape Breton County Councillor
Florence

Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Question Period

Is the machine that crushes cars good for refrigerators etc.?

No. It does not bind the objects together as they are too small compared with cars. There should be a special machine operated by a private enterprise.

Do you have any idea what your municipality is spending on litter clean-ups?

Private contractors bid on garbage pick up and truck it to the incinerator which costs $4-$5 million a year to operate.

But do you have people hired to pick up litter?

No. Just people through the Department of Highways in the summer time.

Do you think it's feasible to get garbage contractors to recycle?

I don't think so. Recyclers would only pick up the recyclables and leave the rest. In my experience people are reluctant to have anything imposed on them. They would not want to separate their garbage and put it out. This really isn't very practical. I feel very strongly about deposits on bottles and cans as they can be very dangerous. I had my foot badly cut as a child and had to have the glass removed surgically. They cause fires and all kinds of problems and need to be controlled. With regards to creating laws, if you find someone is going to hit you with a baseball bat someone is going to duck - with harsh legislation people respond, like deer jacking and drunk driving. These activities have been greatly reduced.

The RCMP sound reluctant to make charges. What is your opinion on hiring people to enforce the laws?

We have to consider the expenditure and tax rates. More and more programmes are becoming the responsibility of municipalities but yes, I would hire two people and get a charge or two and publicize it. It would have some effect. We need some strong deterrent. I get sick of hearing about education. We have been trying to educate the public for the past 100 years but have not been successful. It is best to penalize severely.

Earl Fraser
West Mount

I have been hoping that something would be done with regards to littering for many years and I am very pleased to see the establishment of the Foundation and the formation of the Task Force.

I have a personal experience to relate that concerns the enforcement of laws regarding litter violations. In this case, big litter. On July 6, 1988 a concrete foundation was dumped on the side of the highway close to my home. It eventually got pushed over the bank by the shore. I found out who put it there and contacted him, the owner of the foundation, the County councillor, the MLA, the environmental officer in Sydney and Department of Transportation superintendent and engineer. I got sympathetic handling from six of them but not from the person who put it there. The trouble is that it is still there and nothing has been done about it. I was told that it was put there for control of an erosion problem, but you don't do that kind of thing to stop erosion. You don't make the shoreline into a dump. The owner of the foundation threatened to withhold payment to the contractor. Everyone I contacted was courteous but nothing was done. It was a foundation for a convenience store in Sydney River. About three to four feet of foundation and steps were just dumped.

There was a general discussion with Mr. Fraser regarding the various actions that he could take. He was encouraged to keep up with his enquiries and perhaps to commit his experiences to paper and along with photographs contact senior individuals in the Department of Transportation.

Mr. Fraser related that close to 30 years ago a new Sydney River bridge was opened. The old bridge structure was removed however the abutments and pilings were left in place. Different Departments were contacted regarding the removal of this eyesore but they each passed the responsibility onto some other Department, both Federal and Provincial. Even after all this time those abutments are still there.

Littering and the attitudes of people and governments towards clean-up were generally discussed.

Bernard Tremblay
Sydney

I am interested in garbage (industrial waste). As the problems of disposing of waste increase and restrictions are placed on those items accepted in incinerators or landfill sites, we may find in the future many items we regard as garbage today becoming litter. People may end up disposing of these things on the roadside. We should find ways of disposal that are economically and ecologically feasible. It is important to broadcast the real link between ecology and economics. Often what makes ecological sense makes good economic sense.

True garbage would not be difficult to dispose of if junk was removed and reused/recycled which also makes good economic sense. There is a lot of junk in garbage like wooden pallets for instance. They, when placed in the landfill site, displace the space that should be taken up by garbage. If the costs of landfill go up these items could end up on the sides of our roads.

A coordinated approach may serve to avert people of the crisis but may be used to engage them, for instance glass has some value. In Seattle, they enforce the separation of household garbage, however they offer a carrot in the form of a lottery. Each week a name is drawn from a hat and their garbage is examined. If it is separated they win $500. If there is no winner the $500 goes into next week's jackpot and adds up. Alternatively negative fines could result in resistance. This approach turns the attitude of householders round the other way. We have to engage public enthusiasm to create the raw material of political will. Future predictions are horrifying. The World Watch Institute questions whether it will be the economic or ecological system that collapses first.

Programmes should be creative and developed with understanding and should have wide coverage rather than being just glib electioneering. We need to develop a new garbage science. The old adage of 'out of site, out of mind' can not be tolerated anymore. Entrepreneurs should come up with creative solutions. The positive involvement of the community could be a major result of programmes.

Question Period

Can you give specific things that the province could do?
When I read of the various activities that the government gets involved with that are ecologically hazardous I question their sincerity. When the political decisions fly in the face of rational argument I wonder if Departments will act. I would like to see more links between the Departments of Small Business Development and the Department of the Environment. More cost sharing should be made available to municipalities. There should be more creative funding for small scale innovative ecologically sound projects.

Do you have any suggestions for promoting community involvement?
If litter is treated in isolation from other issues it may not get a full response. If sorting garbage is perceived as being part of addressing the total environmental crisis it could be more effective. Curbside collection will need a clear explanation to participants that they are not wasting their time. They should be given feedback of what on a municipal and environmental level they are contributing to.

Do you know of any community programme that has been successful?
In Edmonton the light rail transit route was a major issue. The City really talked to people that were involved along the proposed routes. There was no protest , there were no fighting matches on Council. It was perceived as a total cooperative effort.

Should we be asking the corporations to participate - we always expect government to be involved?

Yes. We should start with corporations that create the litter. This would help their image. Involvement would enlighten self-image. There are corporations that definitely should be involved.

Please elaborate on your thoughts regarding the link between the Departments of Small Business Development and Department of the Environment?

If a small business is doing something that is beneficial to the environment that may also be marginal, perhaps a provision could be made providing special assistance. Support should be provided no matter how small the initiative. That support should be delivered at the right time when the entrepreneur is moving on their own initiative. Procrastination or delay would risk losing them. Small scale beneficial environmental projects may never come to light again if lost. You just need to get a few going and you can create a symbiosis that becomes infectious. Government departments should be responsive to funding feasibility studies and market studies for these small scale efforts.

Gerald McKinlay
McKinley Beverages, Glace Bay

I have a small soft drink operation in Glace Bay based on returnable bottles. However, I am a dying breed. Two months ago in Glace Bay , Grade 4-7 students went out to pick up litter. It was almost urban renewal! 3-4 thousand bags were picked up. Littering is a people problem. They just don't seem to be able to put trash in the proper place. Education should start at home and then in the schools.

Recycling of containers is the thing. Glass can be crushed and sent 325 miles to Domglas and could be self-liquidating. Having a crusher in the soft drink plant would send loads back to the glass plant in return for bottles delivered. We're going to be producing PET containers which can be incinerated.

I hope that the Task Force will not be suggesting new taxes. Small bottlers are taxed at municipal, federal and provincial levels and taxes are high.

At one time we bought litter bags and gave them out with six packs of pop. Some people do care and they use them in their cars.

Question Period

You use only returnable bottles?
Yes. Our machinery can only do these bottles. It is a private brand, MacKinleys. It is just a matter of economics.

Do deposits represent problems?
In the Fall we will be going into PET. We will need very expensive modifications but we do have a contract and the consumer is moving in this direction.

Do you have any reservations about PET?
Nothing is as good as glass, but PET has improved over the years.

What sizes do you use?
300 and 750 ml.

What price break difference is there between your 350 ml returnable bottle and a non-returnable bottle?
Ours is cheaper after the deposit is paid by about 40%.

Are consumers switching to non-returnables?
We can't continue to survive with just our refillables. We have to swing to a shatterproof non-returnable container.

Your product is the liquid that consumers are saying that they want it in a plastic container. Is there anyway that PET can be recycled?
I don't know. In the United States they collect it and ship it in bales somewhere.

Have non-returnables impaired your business?
Yes.

There was a general discussion regarding the equipment MacKinley's use and some information provided on the history of his company.

APPENDICES

Supporting Documents

SYDNEY

Cape Breton County Board of Health
U.C.C.B. Environmental Technology Class
J. Wesley Stubbert, County Councillor - District 20

SUBMISSION

to

Minister of the Environment
Task Force

on

Litter Abatement

Municipality of the County of Cape Breton

Cape Breton Joint Expenditure Board

Cape Breton County Board of Health

July 1988

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PURPOSE

The local authorities of the Industrial Area of Cape Breton Island are extremely concerned about society's attitude and practice in respect to litter abatement. The purpose of this joint submission is to bring these concerns to the attention of the senior levels of government and to stress the need of processing municipal solid wastes prior to disposal by incineration, recycling or any other acceptable means.

ISSUES

Existing legislation is inadequate and, after analysis, is pertinent only to highways, refillable containers and a wide variety of ineffective municipal bylaws. Such legal instruments imply intent by the use of such words as "deposit", "throw" or "knowingly leave". In this day and age there is no excuse. This serious problem can be identified as the general public's complete unwillingness to comply with a request for the simple exercise of personal hygiene and/or self-discipline. Indeed, the situation is tantamount to laziness, bad housekeeping and a selfish, uncaring attitude towards community cleanliness. In respect to containers, the existing Statute relates to beverages and, in practice only controls refillable containers to the advantage of the manufacturer using non-returnable containers. In all cases, penalties for infraction are neither a financial nor legal deterrent.

Policing the existing legislation is a matter of discretion throughout the province. Municipalities can only exercise such discretion where a local police force is in existence. Therefore, given the fact that counties and districts are policed by the RCMP, such agencies are reluctant to enforce municipal bylaws, considering themselves to be "law enforcement" bodies. In such cases where prosecution is warranted, the lack of a defintion for litter, i.e. any material, knowingly or unknowingly discarded, leads to difficulties in the presentation of evidence or the identification of the suspect.

The transportation of municipal solid waste to disposal or processing sites gives rise for concern. After collection, it is only commonsense that in the interests of environmental protection, health and sanitation, such should be either contained

......../2

or covered. At best, such is monitored at the termination of a journey, an activity which takes place after the event and, therefore, is suspect to good enforcement. Recycling becomes of paramount importance to ensure the complete incineration of combustibles, the baling of reduced bulk and more importantly, a mitigated demand for large landfill sites.

Disposable containers due to the manufacturing process of composite chemicals and/or non-degradable plastics are posing an immense problem in terms of environmental protection and control, as well as health and sanitation. This situation, due to littering, is encroaching upon nature in terms of wild life, water supply, etc. In addition, proper means of waste management are now encountering serious difficulties due to the presence of toxins, dioxanes, etc. Activities such as seepage, leachate, air pollution are very real and expensive to curb and resolve. Economic development, in particular tourism, is adversely affected due to the improper disposal of wrappings and containers. Tourists nor prospective investors are enamoured when confronted with discarded material throughout the countryside and if organic, are so disenchanted that they probably never return to visit again.

Education and the dissemination of public information is the least expensive manner of resolving the issue in the long run. Spruce-up campaigns and competition are "fun" as well as informative and effective. However, the immediate problem is so severe that "tough", mandatory legislation is required to be enforced now. "The carrot must give way to the big stick."

By placing the following recommendations before the Task Force, it is recognized that such reflect a significant cost to Society, manufacturers, and government, but the position put forth is that "opportunity cost" of doing so, presents benefits that far outweigh the immediate financial cost, i.e.:

a) Protection of non-renewable resources, e.g., air, water, personal health, etc.

b) Financial savings in terms of operation of efficient incineration, longer lives for disposal sites, reduced baling operations, etc.

c) Direct income from recycling.

......../3

d) Economic return in terms of employment, tourism, developer investment, etc.

On its own, each advantage is not as significant as the financial cost of control. As a package, such planned, orderly management is a necessity that today's society can ill-afford to ignore, otherwise tomorrow's generation will be bereft of an inheritance.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the government of Nova Scotia:

a)Through the auspices of the Minister of Environment, places legislation before the Provincial Assembly to:

1) Prohibit the discarding of any material, knowingly or otherwise, unless placed in a proper receptacle or site;

2) Prohibit all collectors of municipal solid waste from transporting such in open vehicles;

3) Regulate that all containers be returnable, whether refillable or not, and that the manufacturers, if such, be responsible for ultimate disposal or recycling;

4) Impose significant fines and/or imprisonment terms for any violations.

b) Through the auspices of Cabinet, advise all regulating agencies, including police forces, that such legislation must be rigorously enforced.

c) Through the Department of the Environment, introduce processes to ensure that the general public is adequately informed, educated and more importantly encouraged to participate in worthwhile provincial housekeeping activities.

d) Through the Department of the Environment, promote locally, nationally and internationally the success of such legislation, policies and programs.

Nova Scotia

Department of the Environment

Office of the Minister

PO Box 2107
Halifax Nova Scotia
B3J 3B7

FILE: 15-87-0038

June 16, 1987

Mr. J. Cunningham
Executive Director
Cape Breton Joint Expenditure
Board
County Administration Building
865 Grand Lake Road
Sydney, N.S. B1P 6W2

Dear Mr. Cunningham:

Thank you for your letter of June 8th, advising that the Cape Breton Joint Expenditure Board is in agreement with the main theme of our pilot project.

Your observations about the deposit per container will be considered during our evaluation of the pilot program.

Again, many thanks for your continuing interest and our appreciation as well to the Board members.

Sincere regards,

Laird Stirling
Minister

June 8, 1987

Honourable Laird Stirling
Minister of the Environment
Province of Nova Scotia
P. O. Box 2107
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3B7

Dear Mr. Minister:

Further to your letter of May 14, 1987, I have been directed to advise you that the Cape Breton Joint Expenditure Board are in concert with the main theme of the pilot project.

However, the Board are of the opinion that the small level of deposit, i.e., one cent per container, will not be sufficient to encourage return. I shall be grateful if this concern is taken into consideration during the progress of the project.

Mr. Minister, your continued interest and cooperation is sincerely appreciated.

Sincerely,

J. Cunningham
Executive Director

JC/vl

Nova Scotia

Department of the
Environment

Office of the Minister

PO Box 2107
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3B7

FILE: 03-87-0009
00-87-0005

May 14, 1987

Mr. J. Cunningham
Executive Director
Cape Breton Joint Expenditure Board
County Administration Building
865 Grand Lake Road
Sydney, Nova Scotia B1P 6W2

Dear Mr. Cunningham:

Thank you for your letter of March 5, 1987.

As you know, the Department of the Environment is instituting a pilot project on recycling of aluminum cans and glass containers, and it is our hope that this project will be evaluated as the basis of a comprehensive program.

The pilot project is being assisted by Nova Scotia Bottle Dealers and Recyclers Association who are acting as pickup points for both glass containers and aluminum cans. Payment of one cent a container is being made, and the Department will subsidize the cost of transportation of glass to Moncton. The PILOT RECYCLING PROGRAM will take place during Environment Week - June 1st to June 7th, 1987.

The glass containers have much lower value than aluminum, but it is possible a dual collection system could be largely self-supporting with the additional benefit of greatly improved environmental conditions. We hope to determine the various aspects of this approach with the hope of instituting a general program.

Thank you for your continuing interest and support.

Sincere regards,

Laird Stirling
Minister

May 5, 1987

Honourable Laird Stirling
Minister of the Environment
P. O. Box 2107
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3B7

Dear Mr. Minister:

On April 27, 1987, the Cape Breton Joint Expenditure Board supported a resolution presently before the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities. This resolution calls for the introduction of legislation banning the use of nonreturnable bottles for the retail and distribution of beverages.

Mr. Minister, I have been directed to request that you also support this concept and implement such by way of a deposit system or other methods. In addition, dismay was expressed at the extent of littering, especially upon public highways. By copy of this letter, I am requesting your colleague, the Honourable Guy J. LeBlanc, to consider increasing the present penalties designed to prohibit this distasteful practice.

On behalf of the Board, I thank you and your colleague, the Minister of Transportation, for your continued interest and participation in the affairs of Industrial Cape Breton.

Sincerely,

J. Cunningham
Executive Director

JC/vl

copy: Honourable Guy J. LeBlanc
Minister of Transportation

Sherman S. Zwicker
Executive Director
Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS the litter of non-returnable beverage bottles have become a problem throughout the Province of Nova Scotia;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Minister of Consumer Affairs be requested to introduce legislation calling for the banning of the use of all non-returnable bottles for the distribution and sale of beverages in the Province.

DATED at New Waterford, Nova Scotia, this 7th day of April A.D. 1987.

Jerry Ryan
TOWN-CLERK

Endorsed by the Cape Breton Joint Expenditure Board
April 27th, 1987.

J. Cunningham.
Executive Director.
April 25th/1987.

PRESENTATION
BY
UCCB ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY CLASS

LEGISLATION	HALIA SASHKO MARGO PEDDLY
EDUCATION	ROBERT CHETWYND GORDON GILLAN
RECYCLING	RON DUNPHY PAUL NEWMAN
OTHER	ASTA SODYS KEVIN KINGSBURY

LINO POLEGATO, P. ENG
(INSTRUCTOR)

LEGISLATION I

INTRODUCTION

There appears to be an inconsistency in the anti-litter legislation, on the municipal level, which makes operative regulations difficult to enforce, and raises the question - do they work?

QUESTION - DO THEY WORK?

Only 20 of the 66 municipal units in Nova Scotia have specific litter by-laws and all but 8 of the remaining 46 municipal units, have no litter by-laws. There is no uniform legislation or responsibility taken to address the problem of ever-increasing amounts of litter present.

These inconsistencies cause difficulties in the enforcement of existing legislation and create the N.I.M.B.Y. syndrome - the not-in-my-back-yard attitude, where the general public does not feel the problem affects them.

EFFECTS No value is placed upon litter, some of which could be made valuable by recycling or used as an energy source.

Regarding the disposal of litter, it would clearly benefit the operation of the municipal incinerator if there was more recycling of glass containers and aluminum cans.

Greater amounts of public expenditure is spent to pick up litter, but no solutions are being provided to help solve the problem.

LEGISLATION II

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The following are our suggested changes in the current legislations previously mentioned;

MUNICIPALITIES

We feel that a common municipal litter by-law be created and adopted by all municipalities in Nova Scotia. The municipalities could then be responsible for additions or modifications to this litter law to fit their needs. Areas that need to be covered are: school grounds, parks, shopping centers and parking lots.

THE BEVERAGE CONTAINER ACT

If a cash reward was given for all glass bottles and aluminum cans returned for recycling; a great deal of potentially dangerous litter would no longer be a problem

LITTER ALONG HIGHWAYS IN NOVA SCOTIA

We suggest that the Government issue large trash containers at all gas stations and rest areas along the highways in Nova Scotia. The idea being that if motorists had a convenient easy to use way to get rid of their litter, they would not be so likely to toss it out the window. The containers should be large enough to be able to withstand high winds and vandals. Large signs should be posted along the highways indicating to motorists the location of the nearest litter deposit (trash container).

SECTION II

Education

In some recent literature on proposed sites for a sanitary landfill site, it was recommended that the site be kept out of the public view.

We feel that hiding the solid waste problem is not a good strategy because if the public remains relatively ignorant of what is involved in sanitarily removing or getting rid of waste, there will be no constructive contributions made to a cooperative effort in cleaning up our environment.

If the operations of solid waste disposal were given a public boost, (for example, making solid waste disposal the socially right thing to do in a careful aseptic manner), eventually attitudes could change.

This could be achieved through a rigorous campaign such as the one against anti-smoking. If we started educating our society at the pre-school level, by adulthood the public would be much more aware and concerned of a cleaner environment. Perhaps a goal would be to boost the 'garbage man's' image to that of the milkman.

If educational oriented programs concerning solid waste were introduced into the activities of such organizations as the boy scouts, further progress could be made. These programs should be in cooperation with the Department of Transportation as well as the Department of the Environment.

Another possible form of an awareness compaign would be a municipal competition to see which community and keep their area the cleanest for a year, (and this should be recognized by the government).

Certainly, if a value were put on such things as aluminum cans, the local entrepreneurs would take over, and recycling of many different forms could become a competitive market, inevitably decreasing some solid waste problems.

In conclusion, irregardless of what direction the problems of a solid waste disposal are approached, the most effective way of eliminating them is through education.

SECTION III

Recycling of Solid Waste

Recycling is a term used to describe the reprocessing of waste products for reuse. Although recycling is the most logical approach to solving a part of the solid waste problem, it remains a fact that large numbers of people know little if anything about it. The key to solving this problem is education. Using media such as television, radio, and newspaper all having short advertisements stating the "recycling is one answer to the solid waste problem" would make more people aware that there is a problem and they could help to alleviate it.

The economic benefits of recycling for a community as a whole makes it very attractive alternative. In the report "recycling: a war of understanding" by Robert Dickson, the basic cost of operating a landfill was estimated at $25-$30 per ton. Any reduction in refust would provide substantial savings to a municipality.

Many kinds of wastes can be recycled. Some, including cans and newspapers, can be used over and over again for the same purpose. Cans can be melted down and used to make new cans. Old newspapers can be turned into pulp and be made into clean newsprint. Other materials such as glass bottles and automobile tires can be reused for other purposes. Ground-up glass can serve as an ingredient in roadbuilding materials. Old tires can be melted down in a special process in which they give off valuable chemicals such as oil and gas.

If a dollar value is placed on certain solid wastes, many people would respond. This was, and is, proven with beer bottles, some types of glass soda bottles and copper wire. If 5¢ was payed back for the return of one aluminum can, it would certainly reduced its presence in a landfill sight. This may not be an attractive prospect for the average person but collecting 285 cans per day for a week ($100) would be an adequate fund raiser for a group of cub scouts.

The solid-waste problem is one which will not go away. Recycling seems to be an answer to reduce the problem substantially.

BIODEGRADABLE

The Government does recognize individuals who contribute positively to the environment. The same could be done for those people and companies that use biodegradable materials. For example, Sobey's introduced a photodegradable plastic bag. They should be recognized for their efforts.

SECTION IV

Other PART I

No matter who you are, nobody wants to live in a province whose towns, cities and highways are cluttered with litter and other types of solid waste. We, as a province, have to come up with faster, more conscientious means of taking care of litter. As far as I'm concerned, education, legislation and cooperation between the three levels of government is a must.

One thing that comes to mind in regards to faster clean up is the major highways. I think that everyone here today, sometime in their travels, has come across the heavenly aroma of a skunk or porcupine. It's not a nice feeling on a warm summer day. I'm not sure of a solution but maybe make it so that any government or enforcement vehicle must dispose of the carcass in some way.

Another thing that comes to mind concerning highways are the blown tires from tractor trailers. They seem to have become more and more frequent with the development of retreaded tires which dont't last as long. Maybe the answer would be to make it law so that the trucker himself should pick up the remnants of the tire just as the driver should be responsible for any foreign material that might blow from the truck. This all links back to legislation.

As far as the future goes, an idea was brought up to have government equipped and approved domestic incinerators installed in houses. Any combustible material could be burned right in the home. Non-combustible material could be collected by the sanitation department along with the ash from the incinerator. This idea might have a few flaws in it yet, but who knows what's in store for the future.

In closing, I think that it all comes back to educating the children and siffer penalties for those who choose not to keep Nova Scotia beautiful.

PART II

First of all, I would like to thank the Minister of the Environment, for recognizing that there is indeed a problem with regard to litter on our beautiful province, and for enabling us to present our views to this task force.

One of my main concerns deals with the protection of our children, who deserve to live and play in an environment not detramental to their health.

Looking at a time when children are free to play, like during summer vacation, we find them at beaches, parks and playgrounds. Wouldn't it be ideal not to worry about such things as accidents and contaminants.

I feel much suffering due to "preventative" accidents could be eleviated if only such recreation areas were not riddled with solid waste in the form of broken glass, tin cans and other litter. There are many ways society could correct this problem and I will mention only a few, some more costly than others, but none-the-less equally important.

For example:

* Introduce legislation at the Municipal level that will be strictly monitored.
* Provide regularly maintenanced refuse containers.
* Provide illustrated danger signs for the benefit of children.
* Have all soft drink and beverage containers returnable.

It would be of particular interest for the task force to visit on one given day, a local National Park and a Provincially owned Park, to see for themselves how our problems can be solved.

In closing I have a Quote from a very important individual, a quote that I feel sums up what should be:

"I have travelled around the globe. I have seen the Canadian and American Rockies, the Andes and the Alps and the Highlands of Scotland; but for simple beauty, Cape Breton outrivals them all."

LITTER ABATEMENT - RECYCLING

Litter abatement seems so logical. Nobody likes to see our enironment covered with litter. Everybody complains about the mess our society is getting into. An article recently taken from a newspaper seems to bring home our relation with beautifying our environment and our deep concern about litter.

I quote:

> It's being rumored that flocks of angry, garbage toting ducks are invading households throughout Sydney. The move is believed to be in retaliation for the thoughtless humans who visit Wentworth Park to feed the feathered creatures and then dump garbage into the pond.

> The volume of plastic bags, bottles and other litter is turning the park into one of the ugliest in Canada.

Litter abatement is a problem of every man, woman and child. It is an attitude problem that must be overcome.

Litter abatement is like a long chain and in order to solve the total problem there are may links. One very important link is recycling.

RECYCLING

Recycling has not yet found it's place in our Nova Scotia Society. Since our natural resources are so plentiful most people find separating for recycling a chore.

Most Nova Scotians maybe ~~are~~ unaware of the benefits of recycling. They maybe ~~are~~ unaware of the environmental and ecological benefits that can be achieved by recycling.

Our society has been too eager to accept products or packages that are not recycleable. We are just starting to see some of the unpleasant happenings of such acceptance (i.e. plastic grocery bags that are non-recycleable and non-biodegradeable). There are many others that could be used as examples.

Also, we in Nova Scotia in the past, have not had problems finding land to bury garbage. While we may not know what is being dumped, we always have a place to dump it. Much land has been wasted in this respect, not to mention polution and other environmental effects this may have on us and our future generations.

Considering the amount of waste generated that must be disposed of, the question should not be **"SHOULD WE RECYCLE?"** but rather **"WHAT FORM SHOULD RECYCLING TAKE?"**

Friday Oct. 31/80

③

RECYCLING

Recycling can do much to help keep our Society clean and at the same time get a reduction in waste disposal.

A good progressive recycling program would give the community the needed place to dispose of their recycleable products. It could be a visible sign for community efforts to encourage clean-ups and continue awareness of the need to keep our environment clean. It could be the thrust behind other programs designed to help our society.

Recycling saves our natural resources.

Recycling could be a first link in a chain for a cleaner and more beautiful society.

Recycling is not the final solution but a major link in a chain of events that benefits our everyday living.

. . . 2

Recycling saves or extends the life of a landfill site, or the need to increase the capacity of incineration.

Recycling can give a considerable reduction in waste disposal. The average household on a weekly basis could reduce their domestic garbage by upwards of 10 lbs. if only we had a system in place to ensure these items were recycled. The items would include glass, aluminum cans, plastic and paper products.

In many cases the average household may look upon separating their garbage as a chore. However, this problem can be readily overcome by proper advertising and awareness programs.

There are a number of success stories in the recycling industry that give way to the support of a good recycling program. A curb side program can reduce waste and save money. Let's use a sinerio for the city of Sydney which I'm sure could use the reduction in waste.) There are approximately 9,000 households in Sydney. Let's say a good recycling program with the support of all governments would get 80% participating the saving in waste reduction to the City could be upwards of 36 tons a week, or 1872 tons a year. Let's say that to pick-up and landfill this garbage costs the City of Sydney approximately $35. a ton. hypothetical amount. Therefore the dollar saving to the City could be $1410. a week or $73,320. a year. A small amount maybe, but when coupled with other advantages such as reduced waste and extended life of landfill site could be considered significant.

There are many other tangible and intangible benefits to recycling.

Programs:

1) DOOR TO DOOR PICK-UP

This program would require residents to separate their domestic garbage by placing the recycleables separately from garbage. While this program could generate a considerable savings in waste reduction, it is somewhat more difficult to implement and maintain.

Government financial support is required for this program, especially at the initial set-up stage. However, the method I suggest is that the recycler be paid the cost of waste disposal. Suppose the town or city spends X dollars for collection and disposal of their garbage, then this amount should be passed on to the recycler since there is an actual savings to the Community. After a sound program is in effect and proven, this subsidy may be gradually reduced.

Each household should be supplied with a special container to make their separation easier. The cost of this container (approx. $6.00) could be charged to the household by way of their water or tax bill to make the charge out easier. This container is very durable and would last a long time. In the long run this would be cheaper than using garbage bags, the cost of which the household would be saving.

The recycleables from the household would include glass, aluminum cans, newspaper and cardboard.

The biggest cost of this program would be the specialized vehicle and advertising to ensure participation. Future development should include a penalty for those households that do not participate in the program.

Under this program various areas in the community could be provided with easy recepticles for their recycleables. Schools, halls, beverage rooms, etc. should be encouraged to separate their recycleables

Another phase of recycling is helping to reduce waste and in many cases might be overlooked, is commercial and industrial waste. Much of the waste from our commercial areas can be recycled. If you look at large grocery or department stores, nearly 90% of their waste is recycleable (Paper) While these stores pay fees to have their garbage disposed of, a recycling program should include their waste. As well, in many instances, when waste should be separated for proper disposing having recycleables separated should not increase their haulage fee. We have been blessed with seemingly unlimited landfills sites, and as of yet, have not had to have a separation program of any type. The time, I think, is not too far away when this will have to be implemented.

These two programs could make a considerable reduction in waste if properly implemented and maintained.

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Support

Recycling needs the support of all forms of governments in order to be successful. The cost of advertising, pick-up and processing cannot be properly done without support of governments.

When one considers the cost of waste disposal, it is reasonable to expect that recycling ~~could~~ Would aid in the reduction of waste. The actual cost of the waste disposal ~~could~~ Should be passed on to the recyclers to ensure a successful recycling program.

Considering the positive benefits to our society and community a subsidy program should be considered for the recycling program.

The subsidity would be considered on the basis of saving, or reduction of waste. The average cost to landfill waste could be returned to the recycler or other groups participation. This subsidy could be in the form of an incentive, i.e. some charitable group may be given an area in which to collect recycleables. The group would be paid a fee for each ton of waste kept out of the garbage system. The subsidy could provide these groups with needed funds and help keep our environment clean. As well, this program could be a ~~good~~ Perfect training base for our younger generation in regar to litter abatement and recycling.

⑧

FINANCIAL INCENTIVES:

It is not uncommon for governments to use a wide variety of financial inducements to achieve public policy objectives. Governments have provided businesses and specific industries with financial assistance at rates below private capital or with extended repayment terms. As well governments may use financial incentives to attain non-economic public policy objectives by encouraging private sector solutions to environmental health and safety concerns.

GRANTS:

Under the guidelines of a grant program, a business could be eligible to receive free money for certain activities. Grants

should bemade available for the recycling industry in particular for the purchase of equipment and building facilities.

Other

Recycling should become an ~~intrical~~ part of any waste disposal syste. While each area would be independant, a close relationship should be established.

Recycling as a part of waste disposal can do two things:

Reduction in waste can be achieved by having the recycler receive all commercial garbage and process the recycleables. Here as stated earlier a reduction in waste of 90% can be achieved.

The recycling program would serve as a common place for others to drop off recycleables. It could also serve as a visible sign of the need to recycle. The recycling facility would be completely separate from the waste disposal. However, anyone with recyclables would be directed to this facility before going to the waste

EMPLOYMENT

Another aspect of recycling that many times is overlooked, is its ability to create employment. The industry is still, by and large, labour intense. A good recycling program serving a community of 20-30M could employ 5-10 employees on a regular basis.
Recycling has a great potential and should be seriously considered as an important link in litter abatement.

Governments have been known to give financial help in setting up a waste disposal system.
A recycling program should be considered in conjunction with a waste system before and financial support is given for waste systems.
As well, any waste management policy should include recycling as a waste management technique.
I look forward to a positive approach from the Minister once you have completed your commission.

Florence N.S.
July 25, 1988

Litter Abatement Committee
Sydney, N.S.

Mr. Chairman:

I present this brief in the hope that strong action will be taken to clean up Nova Scotia.

The present laws are weak unenforceable and confusing, Property values are lowered, lovely scenery destroyed and tourists are not impressed with our abounding litter and garbage. Governments must show determination in enforcing clearly defined laws regarding litter garbage and unsightly Property.

Beaches, roadways and some private property are littered beyond belief and must be cleaned up.

A serious problem exists with items such as refrigerators, washers, stoves, etc. These items cannot be incinerated or buried because of bulk size.

Companies dealing in scrap metal should be given financial support to purchase equipment such as metal bailer to crush these items into four foot metal blocks and the product sold.

One company on Cape Breton Island already operating a car crusher has expressed real interest in aquiring a bailer.

At present their are two hundred tons of metal in one location and one hundred tons in another, no real method of processing this material exists at present. Much more is scattered along our roadways and woodland. This unsightly and dangerous litter must be removed. I suggest to members of this committee that the most dangerous and unsightly and disgusting type of litter is that of derelickt vechiles and falling decaying buildings.

The vast majority of property owners want these vehicles and buildings removed.

They are a blight on the country side and devalue other properties in the area. At one-time a municipal unit could have the building removed and the cost assessed, against the property much the same as a tax lean.

Government in a regressive step passed a law where a town must remove the building then sue the owner-for costs this adds extra expence to both parties.

Fire Chiefs, and Inspectors will not order buildings removed because of gray areas in the laws allowing for enforcement of clean up orders. Government passed a law where by four cars could be left on a property before any action could be taken.

A Salvage yard could be operated under this law without a permit by simply storing parts in a building and removing one car~~e~~ at a time, to keep within the four car law.

Governments must pass laws to allow clean-up of all types of litter including cars and buildings.

They must forget courting every voter and enforce laws to protect people and the envoirnment. In closing Mr. Chairman I would hope this commission would recomment strong action to clean-up our Province and Government will pay more then lip service to your report.

Thank you,
for your time and Consideration

J.Wesley Stubbert
Dist 2 Councillor
Florence, C.B. N.S.

Schedule of Presentations

PORT HAWKESBURY

July 26, 1988

Twinpak Inc.

Dr. Michiomi A. Kabayama
Manager
PET Recycling, Twinpak Inc.
Mississauga, Ontario

Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Dr. Kabayama explained that he has had this position with Twin Pak for the last four months but has been involved with recycling plastic for seven years and has over 30 years experience in the plastics industry.
Using a slide presentation he explained who Twinpak is. It is a packaging producer with 18 plants in Canada. It has 2 divisions, the flexible packaging group and the rigid packaging group. They produce a myriad of plastic and aluminized bags, boxes and bottles. Many of which are very familiar to householders. The annual sales for the company in 1987 were over $400 million. In addition to the two groups they also own a company called Ampak which is a distribution company that imports complimentary products to provide a complete range for their clients.

Dr. Kabayama with the use of overhead slides explained Twinpaks commitment to recycling.

One problem is that the manufacturer can not control the use of the PET containers. It can easily be contaminated (e.g. used to carry gasoline) and therefore cannot be reused for food or beverages.

Question Period

Why is there a 12 week shelf life on Cape Breton Beverages 355 ml bottle?
There is a standard test which is administered under severe conditions. All plastics are

porous however PET has a low porosity. Each company also has its own objective standards. This is of concern to bottlers and if they're interested in a long shelf life (little loss of carbonation) they can go to glass or aluminum. However the product usually has a relatively short turnover time and the shelf life is of little concern. It is a fact that carbon dioxide does permeate through PET. We are selling a 1 litre PET bottle to a beer company and their response was that their beer itself would go bad long before the shelf life of the container is reached.

Even if the PET container has been contaminated can it be used to be recycled into other products?

Yes. It is collected, crushed or baled then sent to a chemical operation who washes and separates out other contaminants. At this stage it is very close to virgin material.

So the strapping or any other product made with the recycled PET can be returned to another recycling process?

Exactly. We as a society have not thought in these terms and as a society have not been able to do it economically. With curbside recycling of multi-materials there is a chance to make this feasible.

In your literature you say that Twinpak covers shipping costs of collected bottles back to the plant. Is that just for Ontario?

Twinpak is a national company. We make bottles in Moncton. Once you get recycling programmes we will put together a structure to take them back. In Ontario with even close to one million households recycling we are still not getting back what we should be. Attitudes have to change from the "throw away" society. We need 8 million pounds before it is feasible for us to set up a recycling process so we are sending all the collected containers to two processors in the United States. With other provinces involved we will then open up a processing plant in Quebec or Ontario.

Is the cost of recycling built in to the price of the bottle?

Yes. About 6% of our sales are going in to recycling efforts.

What is the market demand for PET containers?

Over 60% of PET is recycled in some states. In Ontario it will be mandatory to recycle 50%

by 1991.

How much is reused as PET?

PET is a polyester and it can therefore be used in a multitude of other products.

In the past 10 years we have changed our attitudes and now accept that we have to pick up garbage anyway and therefore should be paying for recycling rather than having it pay for itself.

What happens if PET containers don't reach the 50% recycling level required by the Ontario government?

They say that appropriate measures will be taken. This could be a high deposit, a limitation of quantities or the containers could be banned.

Dr. Kabayama reviewed litter abatement and recycling across Canada.

What happens when PET is burned?

PET is comprised of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen and when incinerated at appropriate high temperatures and with air infiltration will be safe.

Various studies have tried to estimate the composition of waste and place plastics somewhere between 4 and 6% by weight and upwards of 46% by volume.

Is there a law that regulates household composting?

Not that I know of. There is lots of information available on what to include or exclude.

Washington State has a progressive tax system which is applied throughout the manufacturing and processing chain. What do you think of that comprehensive approach?

The more complex you make it the less just it becomes. It's best to keep it simple. Such a complex approach would need a huge bureaucracy.

Is this not what the Province of Quebec may be doing?

Yes. They want to make sure it's comprehensive, covers everybody and is fair. It will take a long time to work that out.

With regards to mixed plastics there are ten times as many polyethylene bottles as PET. Several United States recycling programmes collect all and treat them as mixed while others separate down to each material. Until you get a large amount of material it wouldn't be feasible to separate. However you still need quite a large amount to make it viable to do mixed plastics. Mixed plastics can be used to make such things as "cyntile" which is like a lumber product.

Will industry be marking products with identification marks to make it easier for people to separate?

Yes. The industry has developed a code to put on all bottles over the next three years. It will involve a one half inch recycling symbol with numbers and letters on bottles more than sixteen ounces which will identify the plastic.

Will Twinpak be producing a PET can?

We do not see a future for it as it seems to be too expensive to produce.

Herb Lloyd, Manager
Professional Services
Stora Forest Industries Ltd.
Port Hawkesbury

Our mill makes two products, high quality bleached market pulp and newsprint paper. Recycled paper can not be used in our market pulp because of the stringent quality requirements of our customers. Recycled newspaper can be used for newsprint, however it would require special equipment. In a plant in the Province of Quebec, it is costing them $30 million to build a de-inking plant. It obviously does cost a lot of money to install such equipment.

Waste paper contains all kinds of contaminants which have to be removed to protect the process and our consumers. In order to justify such an expense a large reliable supply of paper would be required, so this is why you would normally see a de-inking operation located close to a large centre. Also there is a great expense to the removal of the effluent from the de-inking process.

Question Period

Is there research going on into reducing the cost of the de-inking process?
De-inking is becoming more complex as inks are becoming more sophisticated but the process is well advanced.

Should ink manufacturers be requested to build in a recycling component?
I am sure this is happening, but newspaper inks are getting more complex with the use of colours etc.

What is happening to newsprint that is being recycled now?
A lot goes into other products. Not necessarily connected in the remanufacture of newspaper.

Dr. Kabayama - The Quebec and Ontario paper company in Thoreau use 40% recycled paper and have a de-inking facility. Their problem is with price fluctuations for the recycled paper. However now in Ontario with the larger supply of newspaper through their recycling programmes Atlantic Packaging has just announced a 150 million ton plant which is based on using 100% recycled newsprint.

If there was a ready supply of newsprint would this encourage you to make any changes?
We would consider it. It would depend on the cost and transportation.

If your wood supply dries up?
The industry keeps within a cut that will allow it to continue indefinitely.

Anne Hughes, Chairman
Port Hawkesbury Clean Committee/Centennial Committee

On thinking of projects for our Centennial we thought of a community clean up and that litter abatement would be a significant thing to give back to our community. We want to beautify property and educate children on litter abatement as there is little done now. We have been in to speak to students in Grades 3 - 6, but we have found that by the time they reach Grade 4 we lose them. We have to start at home before they get to school. From our experience we have learnt that we therefore have to get to the parents.

Each business and the community has to get involved with providing waste receptacles. The Department of Highways should be providing rest stops. These would reduce litter. We really believe these could be collection areas and would be a good way of reducing litter along the highways. If there is a can, people will pull over.

We need film to show in the schools. There is little available in Nova Scotia. I am sure we can do something. We really need to implement pride throughout the Province.

Question Period

How do we reach adults regarding anti-littering?

It is very difficult. We have a problem with unsightly premises. On one hand people seem to have pride about their own properties and are upset if someone throws litter on their front lawn but have no care about throwing litter on someone else's. I think that municipalities and towns can do a lot by developing the pride in their communities. We need to make people aware and develop the spirit that we're going to need to keep our community clean. As a group we are now getting very aware of the local situation and we need to develop community spirit rather than working on the individual.

You mention getting to the children early. Have you tried the Woodsy Owl Programme?

The Clean Nova Scotia Foundation suggested that we should contact them. We are trying to get an aluminum can recycling programme started in the schools this Fall.

Would you object to your children being asked to clean up litter?

Absolutely not. In fact in an Antigonish school, children are not allowed to return their class until the yard is clean. We are spending too much time with academic programmes but are not providing life issues at our schools. Children are finding that they just cannot cope. Parents are just not around long enough to teach their children. We are finding that children are basically very lazy as they always expect to have someone else around ready to pick their garbage up.

If there were skits on television regarding cleaning up, especially for kids, do you think that would help?

Children spend a lot of time watching television. It would be a good idea. They are very much influenced by what they see on television. It is important to instill a sense of pride in Nova Scotia as they are going to grow up into it.

We have to encourage positive peer pressure, like our aluminum can collection system. The children will have to put the money generated into school beautification in their first year to encourage pride. We also need to give them responsibilities and praise.

We would like to get some way of getting signs distributed through the community like "every litter bit hurts". They should be made available. It would be so nice if there was a funding programme to assist groups of people in cleaning up their communities. We need encouragement.

Audience Comment - Gerrard Livingstone, Port Hawkesbury

Mr. Livingstone questioned to what extent municipalities enforce their litter by laws. He felt something decisive should be done at the municipal level.

At a teacher he sees and speaks to kids. He sees them walk by an unsightly building on the way to school where they talk about garbage and litter abatement and then go home and see the building again and are confused with the inconsistencies.

beverage rooms, etc. should be encouraged to separate their recycleables

Maybe it is time to revise or enforce our municipal anti-litter by laws.

Audience Comment - Wayne Crouse, Department of the Environment
I have been a garbologist for 12 years. The RCMP do not consider names and addresses found in garbage bags enough proof to make a charge. Need to have a witness who is willing to verify and bring charges. The police do not believe that littering is a serious offence.

Question Period

It's an expensive proposition to carry through the process of laying a charge and it all comes down to dollars and cents. Enforcing litter legislation is not considered worth it.
We've never had parents complain about kids involved with clean-ups, however the results only last about a week and then the will is not there to keep it going. If we can get the municipalities to separate taxes to show how much it's costing for clean-up and garbage removal, people may liven up to the situation.

Dr. Kabayama - Households contribute approximately one third to municipal solid waste with industrial and commercial taking up a second third and construction debris the rest. In establishing a long term recycling programme these other components have to be considered. The Ontario Multi-Material Recycling Inc. is already looking into this and will hope to address it in the future.

Dr. Kabayama spent some time in providing the Task Force members with a basic lesson in plastics accenting the fact that there is little difference between natural polymers (paper, wood, protein etc.) and synthetic polymers (plastics).

Question Period

How many years does it take plastics to break down with compared to natural polymers?

Paper takes years to break down in landfill. Right now bacteria will not digest the carbon/carbon backbone of plastics. However bacteria may be developed in the future so you cannot say that plastics will never break down in landfill. If you want a stable landfill site you should fill it with plastics. If you want it to be unstable and to create leachates put in the other things.

Plastics will eventually weaken after continued recycling and at that time should be incinerated to produce energy.

Does the same weakening apply to other materials like aluminum?

Aluminum will become contaminated and with continual re-melting will degrade to such a point that it will have to be used for something else.

What kind of emphasis should be going into educating politicians?

They are uneducatable. They like a black and white example and sometimes this cannot be done. Things have to be presented in as simple a form as possible.

Some incineration is done in Europe but we find it difficult in North America. A recycling programme should start with the existing accepted recyclables and then move to others. You should get into composting and when you get to that stage then maybe incinerating what little is left with the ash being placed in landfill.

The ozone layer is being destroyed by CFC's which are used in the production of some plastics. Are CFC's released when plastics are burned?

90% of CFC's are used for refrigeration. Only a small amount goes into foam plastics (about 5%). McDonalds' clam shells for instance can be foamed with other chemicals. You are right that if CFC's are present in the material when burnt they will end up in the upper atmosphere.

Plastics stink and create a black smoke when burnt. What is this?

Essentially you get the same thing when you burn oil. When you get black smoke these are carbon molecules that have not burnt so you need high temperatures with a lot of air (oxygen).

With regards to the recycling position in Quebec where the Minister says that if you supply a product you're responsible to remove it, does Twinpak have any problem with that question?

We have said all along that we will take PET containers back and recycle them into useful products.

At what point would you say that a company such as yours should be expected to set up a collection system?

In Ontario, we have said we will buy from one spot. We will do the same in Nova Scotia. We would work out a system for the region especially as we have an operation in Moncton.

As you gain a larger slice of the market will you pursue an advertising campaign to inform the public of the recyclability of PET containers?

In Ontario, OMMRI provides back up and we do specific additional advertising for PET. Special public relations programmes are essential to the success of curbside recycling programmes.

How is OMMRI funded?

It is a very special situation. The soft drink industry went to government and asked for a change in their regulations to allow other container materials (such as aluminum). The government set down regulations requiring that within 18 months of the introduction of a new container it had to be recycled at a 50% rate. The Ontario blue box programme (curbside recycling) seemed to be the solution and was proposed by the soft drink industry. Government agreed to put up one third of the costs for a four year programme. The other two one thirds are shared by the soft drink industry and the participating municipality. We now are trying to get other players (producers of recyclable materials) involved which could become OMMRI phase 2.

Explain how the blue boxes are used.

The blue boxes are plastic and about the size of a laundry hamper. Households are asked to to this facility before going to the [illegible]

put them out only when full of recyclables (glass, aluminum cans, tin cans, PET bottles and newspaper). Each municipality has its own approach to the regularity of the pick up, the materials recycled and how the items are separated in the trucks. Municipal agreements with their collection and disposal contractors vary.

What can you tell us about biodegradables?

Technically biodegradability is possible. Made a requirement, products could be made degradable. In PET bottles it affects clarity and the customer will be charged.

Do you have any advice with regards to litter abatement?

Litter is a question of attitude. My experience in studying the onset of building fires I find that in Canada and in the United States we have the worst record for fires per capita in the World. It is the difference in social attitudes. Our cowboy atmosphere. We don't take care of our buildings. When there is a fire we always say that it is was an accident while other countries say that it's something you did and they feel socially irresponsible. This is similar to our attitude towards litter. Throwing things away is a social attitude.

Is that not something that you are taught at home?

Yes. I think that by learning not to throw certain things away and by adopting recycling it will significantly reduce the litter problem.

Kirsten Mueller
Mulgrave

The Girl Guide Movement makes a practice of very strongly emphasizing anti-littering when camping. Quite a heavy handed attitude has been tried and it must be kept up. In Mulgrave we gave $200 to a school class going on their trip if they cleaned up the street. We have managed to get a litter receptacle outside our Post Office. They complained about the litter but they had no receptacle. Each municipality must take the responsibility to place litter receptacles. They have to be made simple and inexpensive to get people to do the right thing.

Litter like smoking should be socially unacceptable.

I am surprised that you can not return wine bottles as you can beer bottles. All sea based plastic that is causing all kinds of horrible problems to fish and wildlife should be restricted. It is difficult to find out who is regulating the dumping of garbage at sea from pleasure and commercial vessels.

At one time people took their baskets or craft paper bags with handles to the store to carry things home. All bags should be recyclable or reusable or at least they should fit into kitchen garbage containers.

People are destroying our shorelines as they use them for garbage dumps for things from beds to old cars, refrigerators, etc. Most beautiful scenery is destroyed in this area by these dumps. There is no system to dispose of these items.

There is a little shop in Antigonish that crushed bottles during the 1987 Environment Week and they are still there. This short project was useless and the Department of the Environment didn't even pick up the collected bottles. There are several barrels there. The programme was poorly advertised. There was no follow up and the expectations raised have led to frustration.

APPENDICES

Supporting Documents

PORT HAWKESBURY

Twinpak Inc.

PRESENTATION

to

The Minister of the Environment's
TASK FORCE
On Litter Abatement

by

Michiomi A. Kabayama
Manager, PET Recycling

TWINPAK, INC.

Port Hawkesbury, Nova Scotia
Tuesday, July 26, 1988

OUTLINE

1. Who is **Twinpak**?

2. **Twinpak** Commitment to Recycling

3. Litter Abatement/Recycling Measures Across Canada
    - i) British Columbia
    - ii) Alberta
    - iii) Saskatchewan
    - iv) Ontario
    - v) Québec
    - vi) Atlantic Provinces

4. Litter Abatement/Recycling Measures Across the United States

5. **Twinpak** and the Society of the Plastics Industry of Canada

6. Summary

TWINPAK COMMITMENT TO RECYCLING

1. INITIAL INTEREST IN PET (POLYETHYLENE TEREPHTHALATE) IN 1979, AS CARBONATED BEVERAGE CONTAINERS BECAUSE OF:

   - CLARITY
   - STRENGTH
   - LIGHT WEIGHT
   - BARRIER PROPERTIES
   - ABOVE COMBINE TO MAKE PET IDEAL FOR 2-L BOTTLES

2. TWINPAK RECOGNIZED SUCH CONTAINERS WOULD BE ONE-USE BECAUSE:

   - CANADIAN H & W HEALTH PROTECTION BRANCH REGULATIONS RE FOOD-CONTACT CONTAINERS
   - SOME ABSORPTION INTO PLASTIC WALLS (C.F. MILK BOTTLES)
   - NO CONTROL OF USES OF PET CONTAINERS AFTER SALE

3. TWINPAK HAS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED ALL DEPOSIT/RECYCLING LEGISLATION/REGULATIONS AND HAVE GUARANTEED TO BUY BACK ALL PET CONTAINERS BECAUSE:

   - SOCIALLY DESIRABLE
   - INTRINSIC WORTH OF MATERIAL
   - REPROCESSING TECHNOLOGIES AVAILABLE
   - MANY MARKETS FOR RECYCLED PET RESIN

LITTER ABATEMENT/RECYCLING ACROSS CANADA

1. British Columbia: First Canadian jurisdiction to pass a deposit law for containers for carbonated drinks, 1971. presently considering a multi-material recycling regulation.

2. Alberta: Deposits on all sorts of containers, with reception centres for returns.

3. Saskatchewan: Most recent province to permit aluminum cans, under a deposit and return centre system.

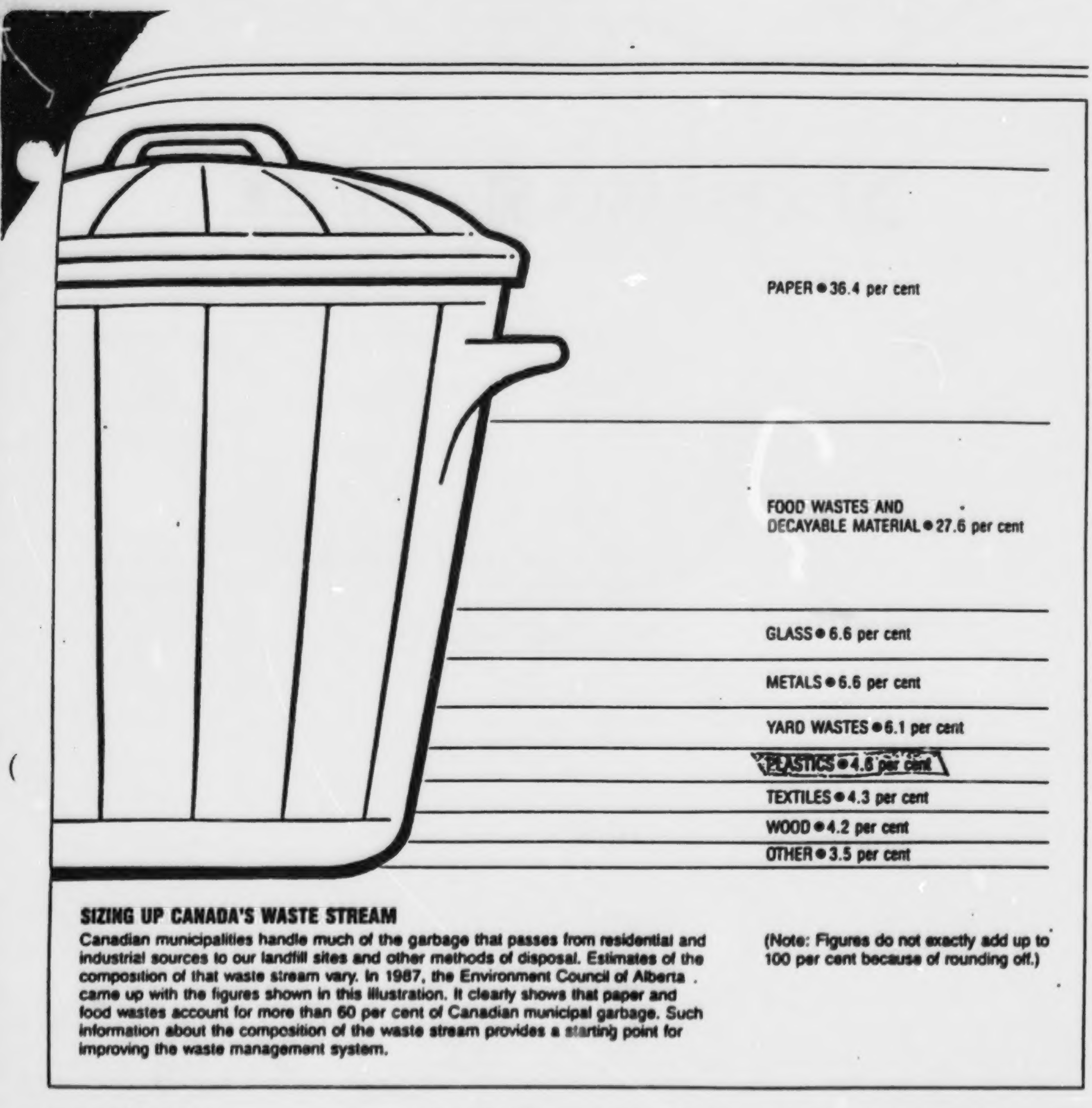
4. Ontario: 1976 restrictive Soft Drink Law revised (1985) to permit any materials, but with a refillable/non-refillable ratios and mandated recycling ratios. This led to OMMRI and MOE collaboration to establish "Blue Box" curbside collection system, which will encompass 1.4 million households by Spring, 1989.

5. Québec: Deposit law (Fonds de Récupération de Québec) will be expanded to a curbside multi-material collection system in 1989.

6. Atlantic Provinces: Discussions such as this one taking place in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

RECOVERABLE MATERIALS

Glass	CLEAR
	AMBER
	GREEN
Paper	NEWSPAPER
	CORRUGATED CARDBOARD
	FINE PAPERS
	BOX CARDBOARD
Steel	"TIN" CANS
Aluminum	CANS
Plastic	PET
	HDPE
	Mixed, others: LDPE, PVC PP, PS, ABS
Humus, yard waste	
Refuse-Derived Fuel	



SIZING UP CANADA'S WASTE STREAM

Canadian municipalities handle much of the garbage that passes from residential and industrial sources to our landfill sites and other methods of disposal. Estimates of the composition of that waste stream vary. In 1987, the Environment Council of Alberta came up with the figures shown in this illustration. It clearly shows that paper and food wastes account for more than 60 per cent of Canadian municipal garbage. Such information about the composition of the waste stream provides a starting point for improving the waste management system.

(Note: Figures do not exactly add up to 100 per cent because of rounding off.)

THE FOUR Rs

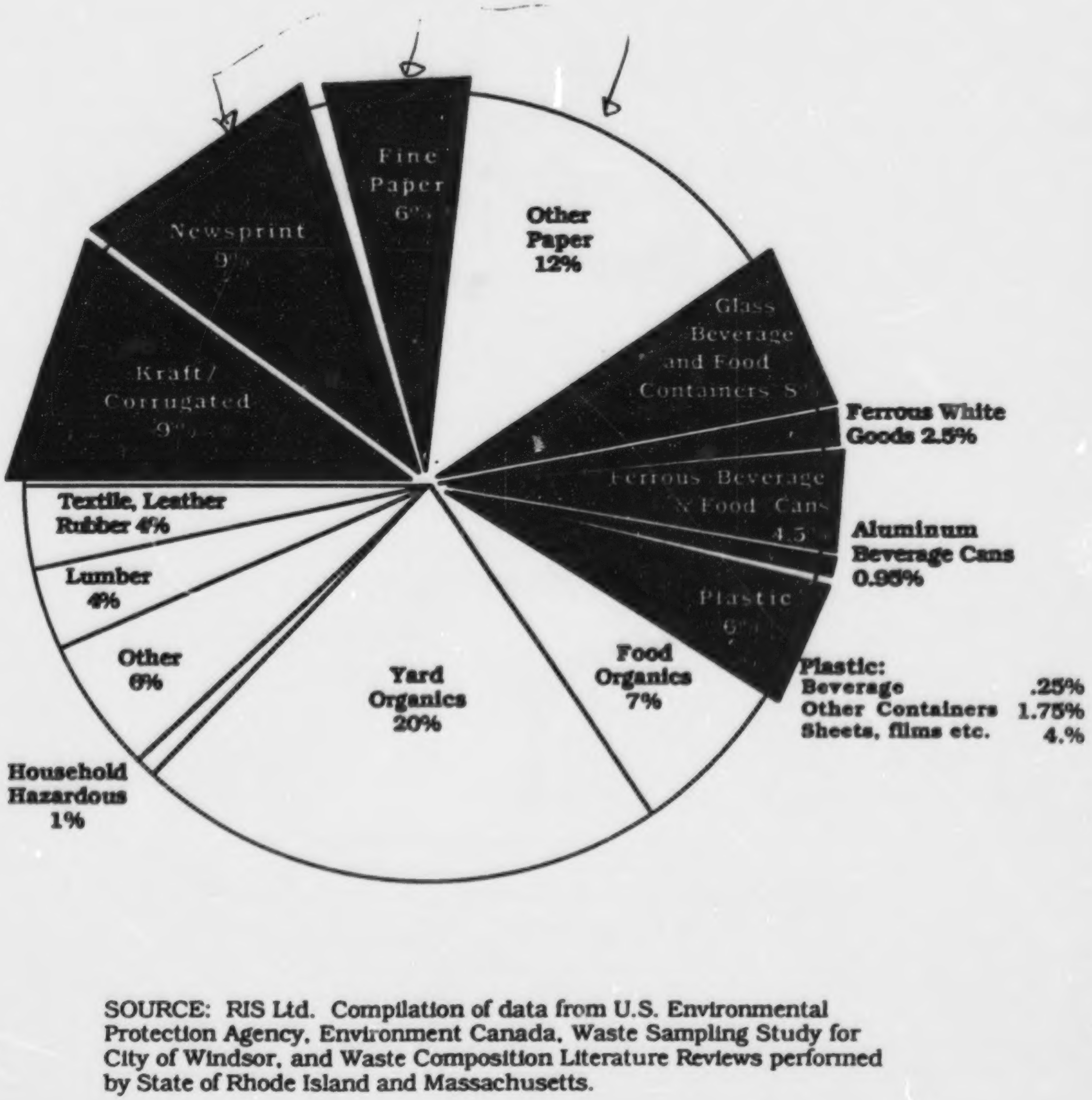
There are a number of ways to escape the pitfalls of landfill sites and incinerators, however. Better waste management could curb the need for those solutions. According to Colin Isaacs, "even by conservative estimates, we could cut down waste by 25 per cent. That would mean 25 per cent fewer landfill sites needed." Environmentalists call those alternative methods "The Four Rs": *reduction, re-use, recycling* and, finally, *resource recovery.*

Rather than continue to churn out garbage at our present rate, environmentalists say we should be *reducing* the amount of material that goes to the landfill site or incinerator. "Canadians should aim to cut garbage output by 50 per cent or more," said Mr. Isaacs. West Germany and the Scandinavian countries have reduced waste by up to 80 per cent by combining several waste-management strategies. In Canada, however, less than two per cent of waste avoids conventional treatment.

One way to cut waste is to produce less waste in the first place. Consumers should buy products of good quality that last longer, and avoid those designed to be used once and then thrown away. Insist on repairable products and those that can be recycled. We can also choose products that have no more packaging than necessary. "Packaging can be 35 to 50 per cent of total waste found in landfills," said Adam Cuilini, supervisor, Waste Reduction Section, Waste Management Branch, Ontario Ministry of

Estimated Waste Composition for Ontario Communities

27% paper.



SOURCE: RIS Ltd. Compilation of data from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Environment Canada, Waste Sampling Study for City of Windsor, and Waste Composition Literature Reviews performed by State of Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

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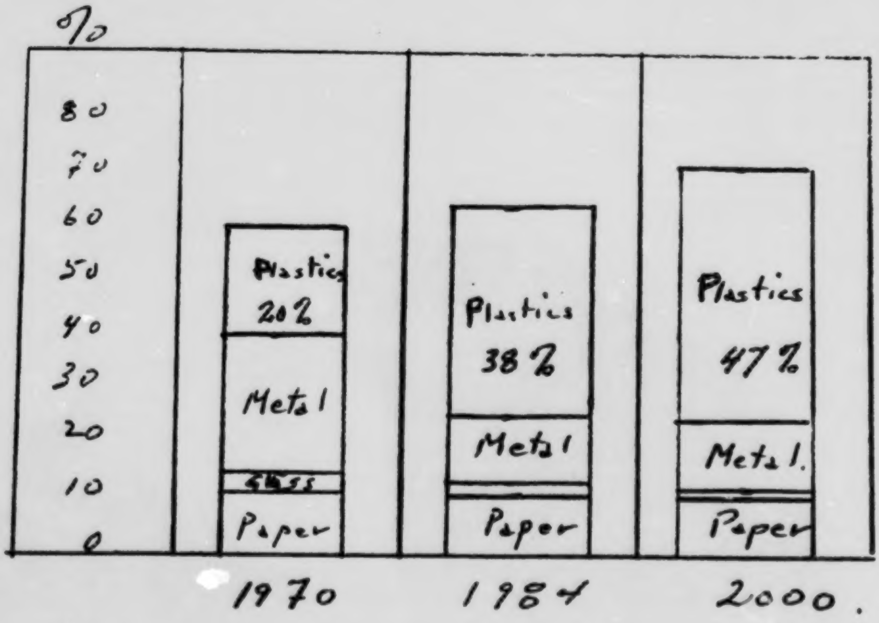

MUNICIPAL WASTE
PERCENT BY VOLUME
SOURCE: DOMTAR.

from. Food in Canada. April, 1988, pp. 42-

" Garbage Crisis - Packagers
Face Legislation "

Regional Municipality
of Ottawa-Carleton
Municipalité régionale
Ottawa-Carleton

Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Note de Service

TO/DESTINATAIRE
Co-ordinator
Transportation and Works Policy
Committee

FROM/EXPÉDITEUR
Chairman
Waste Management Task Force

SUBJECT/OBJET
WASTE MANAGEMENT - P.E.T. PRODUCTS IN THE WASTE STREAM

DATE: 24 May 88

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to make the Transportation and Works Policy Committee aware of a growing problem in waste management. That problem is the introduction of a product known as P.E.T. into the municipal waste stream. The most common form of P.E.T. is the plastic soft drink containers which have recently found their way into the soft drink industry.

BACKGROUND

One of the most important principles of waste management which exists today is the control of products which enter the waste stream. This control is consistent with the "Four R's" of waste management; reduction, re-use, recycling and recovery.

It is unfortunate that during a period of time when the focus in waste management is on controlling the waste stream, a new product has entered the market and the waste stream with virtually no effort to control it. For example, the manufacturers and distributors of this product are not obliged to require a deposit on the bottles to encourage their return to the distributor to keep them out of the waste stream. Given the predominance of this product in the market, the effects of introducing this product into the waste stream will be significant.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton is in a position to encourage the provincial government and manufacturers and distributors of this product to act responsibly in the management of P.E.T. The Regional Municipality could do this by refusing to accept these plastic products at Regional landfill sites. Therefore, the recommendations to the Committee are as follows:

ADDITIONAL ITEM # 9 TRANSPORTATION AND WORKS POLICY
COMMITTEE MEETING MAY 25, 1988

1. That the Committee endorse in principle a ban on the disposal of P.E.T. products at Regional landfill sites.
2. That the municipalities instruct their collection contractors not to accept P.E.T. bottles from residential location up to and including not accepting garbage with P.E.T. containers.
3. That the Committee instruct the staff of the Works Department to investigate all matters involving what form this ban should take and, particularly, when the ban should come into effect.
4. Forward our concerns to the Provincial Government so that regulations can be implemented for the handling of these containers including deposits and re-handling.

Frank Reid
Chairman, Waste Management
Task Force

Schedule of Presentations

NEW GLASGOW

July 27, 1988

L.E. Smith and Associates
Mount William Recycling
Summer Street Enterprises
Pictou County Solid Waste Management System
Town of New Glasgow
Pictou West P.C. Association
Roddie Smith
Municipality of the County of Pcitou
Innkeepers Guild of Nova Scotia
Christopher MacFarlane
Mrs. E. Long (presented by Faye Blenkhorne)

Lynn Smith
L.E. Smith & Associates, Environmental Consultants
Orangeville, Ontario

Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Litter is "the uncontrolled disposal of material". We have all done it. It creates lots of problems in the environment, tourism industry, wildlife management and results in equipment damages, etc. Plastic litter has the worst reputation now. Paper will degrade but plastics by their essence are strong and long living and we've come to depend on them. The durability that makes them desirable for certain products creates the problems in the environment.

Degradable plastics are an important issue with litter. Six to eight companies in the World make degradable materials. One company makes a resin that is photodegradable that will break down under ultra violet light without any impact on its shelf life. When it is thrown out it will break down into hydrogen, carbon and oxygen.

The down side of plastic is what happens in the environment to wildlife. There is an attempt to ban all ocean dumping. At this time many of the problems with plastics could be solved with degradables although technology should be tempered with education and legislation. "Litter Cops" are not that practical. There is a move in other areas to develop anti-litter campaigns that give a message tied with the means of not to litter, i.e. the message about the problem must be tied to a solution.

Recycling as one of the four approaches to solid waste management is the most popular approach. Lynn Smith shared her experiences as a founding member of OMMRI. The intention is to supply blue boxes to each household in Ontario to allow them to be part of the programme. Various materials get recycled into related materials/products. The programme is working reasonably well in Ontario although it is taking some time to set up. For such a programme to be successful there is a need for certain features to gain consistency, e.g. the blue box is visual and can be viewed at the curbside of each home and when it is picked up the same day as the normal garbage pick up making it convenient. The recycling symbol on the blue box is also an example of consistency.

OMMRI identified four strategies: reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery of waste. Some companies will reduce packaging to reduce their impact on the waste stream, e.g. the tetrapak (a lightweight package) is the result of minimalizing of packaging. By recovery we mean a burning unit which will recover energy from the item leaving an ash.

Waste management should follow the four R concept. Each material produced should be reviewed from this standpoint. By reducing down to the final burning stage it gets down to a controllable situation. The remaining problem is whether incineration can be safely monitored from a health and safety standpoint.

Question Period

Biodegradable plastics are an interesting issue. One expert says that the breakdown can create problems from leaching chemicals. How do you address that conflict?

There is a whole topic around degradables. There are biodegradables like Ecostar from St. Lawrence Starch which reduces the strength of the plastic. It is used for garbage bags but is not an instant solution for all plastics. Some plastics you don't want to degrade. On the other hand if the plastics end up as being a litter problem you want to get rid of it as quickly as possible. If a product has a high chance to be a litter item it should be degradable. Ecolyte is one Canadian product specially designed to degrade only under ultra violet light, e.g. a picnic fork make of Ecolyte could be made to disappear. Plastics in landfill become a complex issue. You have little control what goes in and all kinds of things can happen with mixed items. It is the volume that plastics take up that becomes more of a problem.

Doesn't newspaper take a long time to break down?

I have heard of figures of 30 years or more. An archeologist has done archeological digs in three landfill sites and has found paper between 20 and 60 years old.

You mentioned education and enforcement. Are you aware of any specific approaches?

A good effective campaign was the smoking issue and they focused on kids who would go home and give their parents a guilt trip. Kids will not give up easily and become very insistent. Some programmes now emphasize all kinds of environmental issues for presentation to very young children - Pre-school to Grade 1. More information on the environment is being delivered through the media by including issues in television scripts, for instance, the landfill problem could become a feature of a soap box opera story.

Litter containers should be well placed and visually attractive so that they will show up and appear as a solution.

Do you know of any litter convictions in Ontario?

We don't hear much about fines. We hear more about the problem and such issues as Toronto's four years remaining in their landfill site. The problem is to actually catch someone and it's a low priority for the police. Most public attention is now focused on recycling rather than on littering.

Some towns charge householders for not separating their garbage?

In south west Oxford they are strict as they have no landfill site.

Have you heard of a positive incentive approach to encouraging recycling?

In the town of Riley, Alberta, Captain Compost congratulates its people who are composting. In Oregon there is a programme that will provide a $90,000 grant for minimizing harbour littering problems.

Gary Kennedy
Mount William Recycling

(Mr. Kennedy runs a depot at the gate to the landfill site where he separates corrugated cardboard from loads of garbage which are diverted to his yard).

I am situated at the Mount William landfill site as garbage from six municipalities comes to that spot. Recycling is the way of the future.

One solution to handling plastics is the ET1 Extruder. It takes mixed plastics which it melts down and extrudes into 150 odd products. It does not matter what the mix is. It just chews things up and makes stuff for things like breakwaters, platforms for pig stys, posts etc. However, the marketing of the products and getting enough volume will be difficult.

If there was a deposit on containers people would pick them up when they become litter. The blue box concept with separate pick-up of recyclables is an excellent approach. It is about time we got to do this. It would need a lot of publicity to get recycling going. We should start with the children. Perhaps if we got a major advertiser like one of the pop companies to start using phrases like "Don't throw it away, recycle it", it would help.

Car tires and car body parts made from plastic take up a lot of space in the landfill. We have to figure what the cost of landfill will be in 50 years time. We need recycling and we have to start somewhere.

Question Period

Some recyclers do not want government assistance while others need subsidies. What do you see as the appropriate form of government assistance?

Government should do an educational programme. We don't need fancy trucks for recycling. If each town sets up a dumping station with a blue box system or some other way to sort out the recyclables, the remaining waste can be sent on to landfill.

Do your municipalities cooperate with you?

I am operating inside the landfill site and sort out cardboard. I would hope also to be able to bale garbage. Once it is packed tight there is very little leaching and you require less fill and there is less smell produced. Landfills using compacted garbage will last longer.

There is a letter in the Chronicle Herald about a super compactor in Japan

There is one in the United States that has 800 h.p. The more you recycle the less you have to bury. Some countries have armed guards protecting the garbage. We are a throw away society while other people reuse. We think we have all kinds of land and therefore we think we can keep on burying it.

What is the life expectancy of the Mount William site?

About 15 years but this could be tripled if recycling and compacting were used.

Plastics represent a large volume in the landfill .... in Pictou County we handle over 3 million PET bottles or 200 tractor trailer loads and this gets dumped in the landfill site. These are just pop bottles. Then you can add all your other types of containers. The extruding machine will take lots of these to produce durable materials which in turn can be recycled. There is no reason why wooden pallets could not be reused. They are now being buried. Demolished houses end up in the landfill site, and trees, etc. Why bury it when you can get some extra use out of things? People believe "out of sight, out of mind".

Domglas uses cullet (broken glass) and the more they use the more economical the glass manufacturing process is. Last year alone in the United States 5 million cord of wood were used for the manufacture of disposal diapers.

You must be concerned with the cost of the extruding machine?

Yes. It is expensive. If we had one we could be operating it in an area central to the Pictou County urban areas. Education is the big thing. I have spoken to Grade 6 and 10 classes in Canso but not here.

We should give the garbage man more important status in the community. Do you think that people like you should be going into schools and perhaps on television?

Kids don't know about landfill sites. Mr. Rogers on television went into a car recycling place. That programme and the television in general is good for teaching kids.

I am only getting about one half the cardboard that goes into the landfill site. The rest is not getting deposited at my depot. The newspaper media is not that interested with this issue.

Bob Bennett, Executive Director
Summer Street Industries

Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Sheltered industries in the province have a large number of employees who would like the opportunity to look at recycling. This would provide good training and employment opportunities. There is a problem with litter and the government, industry and the consumer have to get together to find solutions.

Question Period

We have heard of workshops that do get involved like the book stripping done in Dartmouth?
We looked at recycling paper. People in the county were saving paper and we were collecting and baling it. We did not however have sufficient storage and it was very inconvenient waiting for a truck passing by on its way to the plant in Truro. With pick up being so unpredictable we had to discontinue it.

What assistance would you need?
The costs for the purchase of equipment etc.
Who is Summer Street Industries?
A vocational training centre for mentally disabled people. We have 52 employees with 14 staff.
What are your present products?
Lawn furniture, survey stakes, buttons, baked goods, fence poles etc. We mow lawns and have a variety of supportive work programmes.
Do they get paid?
They get a stipend which works out to between 30 cents and $1 per hour.

What materials are you using?
Mainly wood. We are now looking at PVC pipe.
What would these people be doing without Summer Street Industries?
Lots would be in trouble.
If you got some help in spreading the recycling message, do you think that people would give you recyclable products?
The community is very supportive of our efforts.
What do you want the Task Force to help you with?
The sheltered industries in Nova Scotia are interested in recycling. We would like to be part of the solution and are ready to respond.
Do you think you could supply employees to Mr. Kennedy's operation?
That is a good possibility. It opens up a whole new area for us. Our present markets are becoming saturated. Recycling sounds attractive. We need to do a lot more market research however.

Lonny Ferguson
Pictou County Solid Waste Management System

Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Question Period

Some people say that recycling should be operated to make money. Should municipalities just include recycling as part of running a landfill operation?
Municipalities could definitely benefit by reducing the disposal cost figure.
I am impressed with the $11 per ton disposal cost which seems to be quite low. Also we have heard higher participation rates quoted from other areas.

Have you seen other systems that work?

I have been to see the Toronto recycling system and they have other problems with incineration and lack of space. A realistic waste stream diversion is between 13-17% from recycling. One town has a 100% participation rate. The more affluent the society the larger the participation in recycling.

If 15% is recycled and the rest compacted, what savings on landfill would be made?

Salesman say you can reduce space by 65%. A two and a half million dollar compactor handling two hundred tons per day would be required to handle our waste stream.

How much time do you have left in your landfill site?

20 - 25 years.

Why do you have an $11 figure compared to the $17 figure as estimated for the metro area cost of dumping garbage?

Our operation does not include collection.

Why do people have this fixation about recycling that it should cover its own cost. Shouldn't it be regarded as a community service? Do we need to change the present attitudes displayed by elected officials?

We are taxed too much as it is and I honestly feel that recycling can be properly run to be self-sufficient.

Danny MacLeod, Councillor
Chairman of the Litter Committee for the Town of New Glasgow

Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Ted Scanlon
Pictou West Conservative Association

Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Rather than saying that recycling operations should make money we should ask ourselves how much should we pay bearing in mind the future cost of garbage disposal. Our fishermen discard mono-filament nets into the sea and they know it is a real environmental problem. Sea dumping is a major area of concern. People are really becoming aware that littering can be dangerous. We have to understand what are the ultimate costs.

Question Period

Regarding municipal legislation and enforcement, have there been any prosecutions made in Pictou?

Not many. Education is much more effective. Police could go to the schools to explain this.

What is the total New Glasgow town budget?

We hired a sports club to do a clean up and we have got a few people hired this year. We are probably talking about $15,000. The total town budget is about $10 million.

You say that garbage has had a 10% increase over last year. Do you know why?

They say it fluctuates with the economy. We have had a marked increase of employment in the area. We don't get much industrial waste so this is in mostly household waste.

Roddie Smith

Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Question Period

What turned you on to this subject?

Littering in different parts of the area is quite considerable. The schools approach government for funding for this and that. When I was in Labrador we collected litter and were paid $1 per bag. This was our way of being able to fly on eight trips to participate in sports events.

Ed McMaster, Councillor
Municipality of the County of Pictou

Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

We have been sending resolutions to government on non-returnable bottles. The situation is very different here to Prince Edward Island. We will be following up on recycling in our educational programmes. Everyone could be made aware of recyclers.

Question Period

You mentioned glass bottles. What about plastic bottles and cans?
If glass bottles were all returnable we wouldn't need any plastic bottles. We are saying the same about aluminum cans. Once you have something of value coming back you wouldn't want plastic as you can't use it over and over again.
The container business is driven by the market. At this time the market is telling the bottlers that plastic is needed. Glass seems to be against the market?
Yet in Prince Edward Island they have all glass.
Do you mean all glass bottles or just soft drink bottles?
We're saying all glass bottles.
If returnable, would that stop the people throwing it out of the window?
Glass does have some value and people would likely take it back.
In the provision of start up grants, who would do this?
It may be all levels of government. Municipalities may give tax breaks or provide serviced

lots. We don't have any grants available now.

On returnables, it sounds as if there should be more emphasis on reusable containers at this time?

Why not produce it all in one material (glass) and make it returnable.

What do you think of deposits on all containers?

Returnables if made in standard bottles can be returned anywhere as you would have to go back to return it.

We are having a hard time in hearing of people being fined. What is the situation in this area?

People are fined in this area and reported in the paper. One person who went out diligently to collect litter was fined by the police for having illegal possession of empty beer bottles. The fine of $350 for illegal possession only gets others to throw them out.

Would your municipality be the people who would have the responsibility of providing trash containers?

Our committee sees areas where there are adequate trash containers and others where there are none. We may have to do this through a by-law or other publicity.

Has Pictou County allocated any funds for litter clean up?

With our municipal grants we have cleaned up areas, some roadside dumps for instance. We will also phone people who we know have littered (we find their names in the garbage) and ask them to clean it up or we will call the police.

Has the Council thought about the selection of another site for landfill once the present one is used up?

It will be very difficult to find another site and very hard to obtain one though this could be required in 10 or 12 years.

Is your landfill site the same one as Mr. Ferguson uses?

Yes.

He says 20 years and you say less?

We have found that there is bedrock at a higher level than estimated, therefore there is less depth for burying.

Would your municipality encourage recycling.

Yes, we certainly would.

Do people realize how finite the landfill site is?

Yes. We have talked about it a lot. Also it is 20 miles away and so garbage is going into other places.

Has another dump or landfill site been investigated?

We have thought about it but not yet done anything. We are hoping to establish a collection point close to the cottage area.

Do you have any idea what the clean up of illegal dumping is costing municipal taxpayers?

The by-law enforcement officer is quite busy all the time and he travels around to supervise the clean-up of dumps.

It sounds as though unauthorized dumping is done in Pictou County. Who actually cleans it up?

It is often dumped in old burrow pits on private property. It is difficult to persuade the owner to clean it up if it is not his trash. The provincial Department of Municipal Affairs tells us that we can't go in to private property and the owner cannot be forced to clean it up. We have even put up fences to stop people dumping. As soon as a contractor finishes with a pit people come in and dump. We used to go in with a bulldozer and drive it under but we can't go into private property anymore. The provincial Department of the Environment is supposed to police pits but they don't get round to see them all.

Gary Kousac, President
Innkeepers Guild of Nova Scotia

The Inn Keepers Guild represents all hotels and motels in the province. Cleanliness is very important to us. Our establishments are a visitor's home away from home. If we invite a relative home we tidy things up. We should be doing the same with the province and our highways.

Fines for littering are not high enough. Open liquor fines went up and this has had an affect. The $50 for littering is no fine at all. In Vermont they have a first offence of $500. This is one small State that says that we would like you to visit but we don't want you to litter. With the money collected from fines we feel it could go back into student employment to clean up the highways in the summer time.

Boy Scouts like to leave their campsites cleaner than when they got there. Garbage is for garbage cans. If we can put litter in the proper place we can teach adults. We are very pleased with Sobeys environmental move with degradable plastic bags.

People won't stay at a hotel with a lot of litter. Litter in the province is detrimental to tourism. Tourism in Antigonish County is worth $31 million a year. Litter is therefore very important to us. Our main reason is make Nova Scotia a home away from home. We try to keep our properties up and we would like to see all the province follow our example. Our industry has been tardy on this subject but we hope to be more active in the future. We need larger fines and more education.

Question Period

Restaurants must have a lot of food waste and glass and aluminum containers. Has your membership thought about the garbage they create?

Some hotels were getting into plastic glasses. We encourage glass. Soaps and toilet tissue are generally used only once and we are looking for ways to cut down on this. Garbage does seem to increase. Our garbage is picked up once a week and this service is quite expensive.

Would your industry be open to the placing of little depot sites at your locations?

We are thinking of sponsoring garbage cans with the Restaurant Association and placing them at different locations. They would be emptied each day by the sponsoring business.

This did come up but no action has been seen as yet.

Tourism is either #1 or #2 contributor to the provincial national product. Surely this demands some investment from the industry benefitting?

We have been tardy in our performance. We don't always look at the problems. We see more people from outside the province than most businesses and many say that we have a beautiful province but I know it isn't as clean as other provinces or states. We will in the future be doing a lot more. Our guild will earnestly try to do more to clean up our province and improve our involvement. We know what the problem is. We've just been a little tardy.

Christopher MacFarlane
Grade 5 Student

Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Garbage cans for children could be designed with appeal. Perhaps to resemble cartoon characters.

Hilda Long, Pictou
Presented by Faye Blenkhorne

Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Bob Olson
Pictou County

Litter is material that has been purposely or accidentally thrown where it doesn't belong. I used to live near Kentville, just a Big Mac or a Snack Pack away from their fast food outlets and used to pick up their litter on my property each Sunday. Now we're in Pictou County just a bottle of Keith's or a MacGillvray's gin bottle away from the liquor store. If deposits were placed on every beverage container even if they weren't returned, people would pick them up and it would disappear from our roads.

That is only the visual part of litter. We don't see the criminal offence of litter. When people use toxic sprays the spray is uncontrolled. It goes way beyond the area it is intended to treat. This is bad littering but we don't see it and these are things that will hurt us. Every farmer's pesticide is getting into places it doesn't belong.

We are not hearing very much about heavy metals. There are a lot of agricultural materials that have a half life of hundreds of years. We have some things that will never go away. My experience is in applying these things as sprays and I know that it stays around for years. They can only be destroyed at extremely high temperatures. We have no access to such a furnace here. The only one I know about is in Alberta which can only be used by Albertans. We need one in Nova Scotia.

Question Period

Several toxics are used by householders. Do they break down after a while?

Some do and some don't. The ones under the sink are far worse than what you spray on your garden.

You mentioned that all containers should have value and have deposits. What would you do about fast food litter?

Deposits on fast food would kill the take-out business. All litter problems are actually caused by a very small percentage of our population. A lot of dumping is done by the farmers themselves as the usual garbage truck won't pick up their wastes. This is always going to be a problem in the woods.

We saw a tragic scene in Cape Breton. The heavy water plant was a dramatic example of industrial litter.

Prohibition does not work. You can't outlaw things. It doesn't work. Excessive deposits won't work either.

General Comments

Gary Kennedy - Recycling is the thing. Domglas can take an awful lot of glass. Government could help someway to get someone started. In this area the Lions Club help with recycling. The Scouts find it too much of a hassle. The school board finds too many reasons not to. People should get on the bandwagon. We need an educational programme to let people know of the benefits of recycling.

Michelin Tire would allow me to put depots for aluminum cans and bottles in their parking lots. This would be a good approach but I have only just begun and I cannot cover such expenses. At this time, the local municipal council does not want to start anything that could be shot down by the incoming new council in October.

(Question directed to Mr. Kennedy)

Do you have any problems in getting set up at the landfill site?

It took about 2 years and I have been having problems with my relationship with the municipality. I have been there for a year and I have a contract from January to July. I have shipped out 540 tons of cardboard which is about half of what comes in. I have four full time staff and three casual. I could pick up things from grocery stores but I would need a larger vehicle. I am not permitted to pick up garbage from where it is tipped at the site so I miss a lot of this. It is difficult to get local stores to separate their cardboard out. My depot is right at the dump, the most logical site. I don't get to touch household garbage and there are only certain things I have permission to collect. The pallets come to the site at about a rate of 500 per week, mostly from Michelin. I haven't the ability to handle them all. Transportation is one problem as it is so expensive.

Mrs. Fox, Councillor - The municipalities have been cooperating with Mr. Kennedy.

We don't want him working at the dump face as our concern is for safety. Kennedy's management methods need some improvement.

Alex MacKenzie, Councillor - We do have money for the clean-up of Pictou Island. We are for recycling but need to understand more first. We are concerned about the pulp mill dumping millions of gallons per day into ponds which is acceptable to the Department of the Environment but more recycling of this could also be done. The province handles the pollution control at the mill so the mill does not have any incentive to do anything further. The Department of the Environment has been put in charge of handling the effluent. This is like putting the fox in charge of the hen house.

Litter bugs are the problem. We should identify the bug and do educational programmes. Good children's television shows like Disney used to get the idea across.

Faye Blenkhorne - Kitchen items seem to be over packed. Something should be done to reduce the amount of wrapping.

APPENDICES

Supporting Documents

NEW GLASGOW

L.E. Smith and Associates
Summer Street Industries
Pictou County Solid Waste Management System
Town of New Glasgow
Pictou West Progressive Conservative Association
Roddie Smith
Municipality of the County of Pictou
Christopher MacFarlane
Mrs. E. Long

L.E. SMITH & ASSOCIATES
Environmental Consultants

LITTER ABATEMENT AND RECYCLING

Highlights of a Presentation on July 27, 1988 to the Task Force on Litter Abatement.

Waste management is a complex and currently high profile issue. Waste management has taken a leap forward in the public's eye for a number of reasons:

1. the NIMBY Syndrome (NOT IN MY BACK YARD) with regards to new landfill sitings;

2. the proliferation of litter, especially plastic litter; and

3. a general increase in public concern for the health of our environment.

The issue of waste management can be split into two general groups: litter (defined as uncontrolled disposal) and garbage (defined as controlled disposal).

There are currently four options under the controlled disposal heading which are recognized:

1) reduce 2) reuse 3) recycle 4) recovery. While recycling is the popular option it is not suitable environmentally or economically for all materials.

The reduction concept is best personified by the aseptic Tetra Brik containers produced by Tetra Pak. The concept behind these containers was to provide a super light-weighted container, a minimal package which can be transported to customers and consumers with minimal use of energy and environmental impact.

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The reuse concept is probably best illustrated by refillables such as Mason jars.

Recycling, currently a very popular approach, is best personified by the Blue Box programme which highlights a convenient service to householders. A Class One programme is defined as once a week same day as garbage day pick-up using a blue box and properly advertised. The Blue box features the words WE RECYCLE and the recycling symbol, the mobius loop.

Recovery is gained through burning material in EFW's or RDF's. Better control over the composition of materials burnt can be obtained by co-ordination with recycling programmes.

On the flip side, litter, or uncontrolled disposal, creates several problems in the environment. Litter is a form of visual pollution which can result in significant economic loss to the tourist industry. A 30% drop in tourism has been noted along the New England seaboard directly attributable to pollution. Litter can also pose health and safety problems, the proliferation of condoms along roadsides and beaches also give rise to concern about the spread of the aids virus. Tampon inserters have been termed "beach whistles" because of the "imaginative use" children have adopted. Equipment failure is another problem that has been tied to litter, where engines become clogged with debris. Perhaps the most visually expressive example of the problem is litter as the spectre of death for wildlife. Stories are now surfacing almost daily of incidents where tragic loss of life has occured, especially related to plastic litter.

Litter has been historically dealt with through the use of fines and anti-litter campaigns. As is evidenced everywhere, the plethora of plastic litter continues to exist and is increasing. Obviously, our more traditional strategies are not sufficient on their own to resolve this condition.

Litter is primarily a result of the conscious or unconscious disgarding of materials by humans. It is a social malaise. A secondary feature is litter created by wind action which tends to be a function of poorly designed containers or poor maintenance procedures.

Education is often touted as the strategy whereby people are trained to not litter. However, this requires time and the cooperation of educators to incorporate these concepts into the curriculum.

Another strategy is the use of monetary disincentives. Fines range from paltry sums to amounts around several hundreds of dollars depending on the area. However, it is extremely difficult to catch the offender in the act and it is cost prohibitive in most cases to bring them to prosecution. As the problems created by litter are chronic and are now becoming acute, strategies must be formed to act quickly and effectively. One of the the strategies required is legislation; many jurisdictions have passed acts to seek prompt action.

Of all the litter items plastic is causing alot of concern because of its persistance in the environment. A Michigan senator compared the duration of plastic in the environment to the longevity of the pyramids. Special attention is given to plastics as litter items because of its durability in the environment in the legislation; the phraseology that has been developed follows :

PLASTIC PRODUCTS AS LITTER MUST DISINTEGRATE WITHIN ONE YEAR AND ULTIMATELY DISAPPEAR. PLASTIC PRODUCTS DESCRIBED ABOVE INCLUDE ALL DISPOSABLE SINGLE USE PACKAGING ITEMS FOR WHICH A RECYCLING PROGRAMME IS NOT IN PLACE OR CANNOT BE ESTABLISHED AND FOR OTHER CONSUMER OR INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS THAT ARE PRONE TO BECOME LITTER.

The technology does exist that allows plastic products to have controlled life spans. ECOLYTE is a Canadian invention that renders plastics degradable. It is not an additive and it does not impact the quality of the product it is used in in any way until exposed to sunlight. It allows the manufacturer to utilize a method of controlling the life span of his product should someone carelessly pitch his product by the wayside. Ecolyte disintegrates into carbon dioxide and water, leaving no harmful by-products in the environment.

Based on the evaluation of historical methods it is clear that a more aggressive approach is taken, where the solution directly attacks the problem. As people are the principal cause of litter a full anti-litter campaign is required, similar in the force put behind the drinking and driving campaign to raise the social consciousness to a more responsible level.

Research has analyzed the littering act. The most valuable information gained from this research is that the target audience must be clearly defined and the precise contents of the message must be carefully worded. Improper messages can trigger an increase in the litter act. Also, solutions must be given to the potential litter offender that are convenient. Just as the blue box programme and its advertising was designed to conveniently market the service of recycling to the householder, an anti-litter campaign must be conveniently market a solution against uncontrolled disposal of material. Consistency is important - the best analogy is the golden arches - you know that no matter where you travel you have access to a standard which is consistently maintained. Familiarity, convenience and consistency are probably of equivalent importance. The above strategies are not exhaustive nor it is intended that they operate in isolation. Co-ordinating legislative action, fines and education supported by a serious widely supported anti-litter campaign will produce a significant impact on the problem of litter control.

Concerns and Recommendations Relating to Litter and Garbage in Nova Scotia

July 27, 1988

Prepared for: The Minister of the Environment's Task Force on Litter Abatement

Prepared by: Bob Bennett, Executive Director
Summer Street Industries

The Minister of the Environment's Task Force on Litter Abatement

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A) Task Force Question: What is your perception of the situation?

Response: We have a serious problem with litter throughout Nova Scotia and no immediate solution for the growing concern.

B) Task Force Question: How does the present situation affect you in your neighbourhood (home/work)?

Response: Every Nova Scotian is faced with the reality of litter, each and every day, in each and every community throughout the province. Litter is easily visible around the walkways and roadways throughout the province.

C) Task Force Question: Who do you believe is responsible (for the situation and/or solution)?

Response: Responsibilty for the act of littering belongs to the person who commits the act. Responsibility for finding the solution belongs to the consumer, manufacturer and government.

D) Task Force Question: What ways do you propose to rectify the situation?

Response: Many Nova Scotians are concerned and willing to put time and effort into addressing the problem of littering, in the home, in the car and in the work place. What is required at this time is a well thought out plan for assisting Nova Scotians in putting a stop to litter.

We propose a system of recycling as a method of addressing the problem. In brief, we suggest centrally located recycling plants combined with regular pick-up service within the communities. We believe that this service will encourage the full co-operation of all Nova Scotians and that each and every citizen will sort his/her garbage into the appropriate categories before it becomes litter.

Summer Street Industries, a vocational training facility for, and employer of, individuals challenged by mental handicaps, is interested in looking at the idea of operating a recycling plant for Pictou County.

We thank the Minister for authorizing a Task Force to address the problem of litter in Nova Scotia and we thank the Task Force for listening.

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TASK FORCE ON LITTER ABATEMENT

presented by
ALONZO.FERGUSON

JULY 27, 1988

THE PROBLEMS OF DEALING WITH LITTER AND WASTE DISPOSAL GOES BACK TO THE TIME WHEN PEOPLE STARTED TO POPULATE THIS PLANET. WRITTEN RECORDS DEALING WITH THIS PROBLEM CAN BE FOUND IN DEUTERONONOMY 23, Vs 12-13 WHEN MOSES SPECIFIED THAT WASTES SHOULD BE BURIED.   ROMAN SIGN POSTS THAT SURVIED THE RAVAGES OF TIME INFORMED TRAVELERS" TAKE YOUR REFUSE FARTHER OR YOU WILL BE FINED "

SOME MEDIEVAL CITIES AVOIDED THE DANGER OF BEING BURIED IN THEIR OWN WASTE BY REQUIRING THAT DEPARTING WAGONS WHICH HAD BEEN USED, PERHAPS TO BRING FARM PRODUCE INTO THE CITY, RETURN WITH A LOAD OF WASTE TO BE DEPOSITED IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. IF YOU GO FOR A DRIVE IN THE COUNTRY TODAY YOU MIGHT THINK THAT THIS PRACTICE STILL CONTINUES.

AS EARLY AS 1297 A.D THERE WERE RULES IN LONDON REQUIRING THAT THE HOME OWNERS KEEP THE SIDEWALKS IN FRONT OF THEIR HOMES FREE FROM LITTER, THIS WAS UPDATED IN 1354 TO ENSURE THAT IT WAS DONE WEEKLY; IF NOT HOME OWNERS WOULD BE FINED.

IN 1383 AN ORDINANCE WAS DIRECTED AT THOSE PEOPLE IN LONDON WHO HAD HOUSES ON THE WALBROOK AND WHO BY THROWING THEIR REFUSE INTO THE WATERCOURSE HAD CAUSED IT TO BE STOPPED UP TO THE GREAT NUISANCE AND DAMAGE TO THE CITY. IN 1388 AN ACT WAS PASSED PROHIBITING THE POLLUTION OF RIVERS, DITCHES AND WATERCOURSES WITH DEPOSITS OF FILTH AND GARBARGE AND ORDERING THAT ALL SUCH REFUSE SHOULD BE CARRIED AWAY INSTEAD TO APPOINTED PLACES, BEFORE IT BECAME A SOURCE OF NUISANCE.

THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL WHICH HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED IN LONDON BY THE BEGINNING OF THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY REMAINED VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED FOR 500 YEARS.(1)

TASK FORCE ON LITTER ABATEMENT

IN PICTOU COUNTY WE CANNOT TRACE OUR HISTORY OF WASTE COLLECTON AND DISPOSAL BACK TO THE TIME OF MOSES. HOWEVER IT IS NOT TOO FAR IN THE PAST THAT WE, LIKE THE PEOPLE OF WALBROOK IN ENGLAND, WERE DUMPING OUR WASTE IN THE RIVER.

IN 1965 THE FIRST LANDFILL SITE IN PICTOU COUNTY WAS OPENED AT PRIESTVILLE. AT FIRST A FEW OF THE TOWNS CONTINUED TO RUN THEIR OWN SEPERATE DUMPS. BUT AS YEARS WENT BY AND WE BECAME MORE AWARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT, THE SMALL DUMPS CLOSED.

IN 1978 IT WAS REALIZED THAT THE LIFE OF THE PRIESTVILLE SITE WAS RAPIDLY RUNNING OUT SO A SEARCH BEGAN FOR A NEW SITE. THE OPENING OF A NEW WASTE DISPOSAL SITE IS NOT AN EASY PROJECT TO COMPLETE AND IT REQUIRES PATIENCE AND DETERMINATION. IN THE OPENING OF THE MOUNT WILLIAM LANDFILL SITE, A NUMBER OF STEPS WERE TAKEN WHICH WE BELIEVE ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN THE SITING OF A NEW SANITARY LANDFILL SITE. FROM THE START, THE CITIZEN'S FROM THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITTES WERE INVOLVED. MANY MEETINGS WERE CALLED AND, AT TIMES TEMPERS FLAIRED BUT, ONE BY ONE, THE CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE WERE DEALT WITH AND RENEWED ASSURANCES WERE GIVEN THAT, IF ANY POLLUTION OCCURED TO THE GROUND WATER, THE SIX MUNICIPAL UNITS INVOLVED WOULD CORRECT THE PROBLEM.

AN OPERATION MANUAL WAS DEVELOPED AND MAILED OUT TO THE CITIZEN'S INVOLVED. A MEETING WAS THEN CALLED AND THE CHANGES REQUESTED BY THE CITIZEN'S WERE INCORPORATED IN THE MANUAL. ON JULY 2, 1981 THE NEW SITE AT MOUNT WILLIAM WAS READY TO OPEN. TODAY THE CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE IS STILL ACTIVE WITH OUR MOST RECENT MEETING HELD ON JUNE 11, OF THIS YEAR.

WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH A WATER QUALITY MONITORING SYSTEM WAS PUT IN PLACE SURRONDING OUR SITE. THE WELLS IN MOUNT WILLIAM, GRANTON AND ABERCOMBIE WERE SAMPLED AND THIS ESTABLISHED A BASELINE FOR WATER QUALITY SHOULD POLLUTION OCCURE. ON SITE 15 WELLS WERE INSTALLED TO MONITOR WATER QUALITY, IN ADDITTION TO THE WELLS 11 SITES FOR SAMPLING SURFACE WATER WERE ESTABLISHED. SAMPLES ARE TAKEN FROM THE ON SITE LOCATIONS TWICE A YEAR AND FROM SELECTED WELLS IN THE COMMUNITY EVERY THREE YEARS. OUR SITE HAS BEEN OPERATING FOR OVER 7 YEARS AND OUR LAST WATER SAMPLING SHOWS NO SIGN OF POLLUTION AND IN FACT EVEN THE SURFACE WATER THAT LEAVES THE SITE MEETS CANADIAN DRINKING WATER STANDARDS.

TASK FORCE ON LITTER ABATEMENT

WE HEAR A LOT OF TALK ABOUT LANDFILL SITES CONTAMINATING GROUNDWATER BUT ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERCIA

"THERE IS NO DATA WHICH INDICATES THAT A WELL DESIGNED SANITARY LANDFILL SITE
RECIEVING MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE HAS CAUSED ANY PROBLEMS WHATSOEVER. THE FACTS ARE CLEAR THAT SANITARY LANDFILL FACILITIES ARE NOT MAJOR POLLUTERS OF GROUNDWATER".

THE SITEING OF A NEW LANDFILL SITE IS GETTING HARDER EVERY YEAR BECAUSE PEOPLE DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY ARE DEALING WITH TODAY A COMMUNITY OPENING A NEW SITE NEEDS A GROUP OF COUNCILORS WITH A DETERMINATION TO DO WHAT IS BEST FOR THE PEOPLE AT LARGE AND THE WILL TO SPEND ENOUGH MONEY TO DO IT RIGHT.

THE PUBLIC DO NOT SEEM TO REALIZE THAT IF WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL STOPPED IT WOULD NOT BE LONG BEFORE LIFE AS WE KNOW IT WOULD ALSO STOP AS WE WOULD BE OVER RUN WITH RODENTS AND DISEASE.

THE LANDFILL SITE AT MOUNT WILLIAM IS OPERATED BY THE PICTOU COUNTY DISTRICT PLANNING COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE SIX MUNICIPAL UNITS IN PICTOU COUNTY. AS WELL AS DISPOSAL, WE ADMINISTER THE COLLECTION CONTRACT FOR THE FIVE TOWNS, THE COUNTY LOOKS AFTER THEIR OWN COLLECTION AS OFF JULY 1, 1988. THE LANDFILL SITE RECIEVED 35,791 TONS OF WASTE IN 1987. THIS REPRESENTS ABOUT 143,164 CUBIC YARDS, SO FAR, IN 1988 WE ARE EXPERIENCING AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 10 PERCENT PER MONTH OVER LAST YEAR.

ONE OF THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN RUNNING A LANDFILL SITE IS THE LITTER SPREAD ALONG ROADWAYS LEADING TO THE SITE. TRUCKS HAULING WITH NO COVERS OR IMPROPER COVERS LOSE PORTIONS OF THEIR LOADS ALONG THESE ROADS. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THERE ARE NO LAWS IN NOVA SCOTIA THAT PROPERLY ADDRESS THIS SITUTATION AND UNTIL SOME ARE PUT INTO PLACE THAT CAN BE ENFORCED THERE IS LITTLE THAT CAN BE DONE. I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT PASS LAWS TO FORCE HAULERS TO COVER LOADS OF ANY WASTE MATERIAL. WE ARE DEFINETLY LACKING IN THIS AREA. IF YOU COMPARE THE ROADWAYS OF NOVA SCOTIA WITH THOSE OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND OR ALBERTA THERE IS A GREAT DIFFERENCE IN APPEARERANCE. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT ALL HIGHWAY LITTER COMES FROM HAULERS. I WOULD THINK THAT PERHAPS NO MORE THAN 15 PERCENT COMES FROM THIS SOURCE. THE MAJORITY IS LITTER DISCARDED BY MOTORESTS WHO HAVE NO PRIDE IN THERE PROVINCE. DISPOSABLE CONTAINERS ARE THE BULK OF HIGHWAY LITTER, SO IT WOULD

APPEAR ON THE SURFACE THAT BANNING THESE CONTAINERS WOULD HELP IN KEEPING OUR HIGHWAYS CLEANER AND WOULD RESULT IN LESS WASTE GOING TO OUR LANDFILLS.

WHEN WE TALK OF THROW AWAY CONTAINERS MOST PEOPLE THINK OF SOFT DRINK CANS AND PERHAPS BEER CANS. BUT THIS IS ONLY THE TIP OF THE PROBLEM. ACCORDING TO DARLENE SNOW (THE MANAGER OF THE WASTE RECYCLERS COUNCIL FOR THE NATIONAL SOLID WASTES MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION) PACKAGING MATERIALS, CONTAINERS AND WRAPPERS COMPRISE 30% OF THE MUNICIPAL WASTE STREAM. IN SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK, LEGISLATION WAS PASSED MARCH 29,1988 TO BAN NONBIODEGRADABLE FOOD PACKAGING AND PLASTIC FOOD UTENSILS. THE LAW GOES INTO EFFECT ON JULY 1, 1989. ON THAT DATE AND THEREAFTER THE SALE OF FOOD IN PACKAGING THAT IS NOT BIODEGRADABLE WILL BE PROHIBITED IN THAT LONG ISLAND COUNTY. THE BANNED ITEMS INCLUDE THE FOAM "CLAM-SHELLS" USED IN FAST FOOD RESTAURANTS, PLASTIC MEAT TRAYS, AND PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS. ALSO BANNED ARE POLYSTRENE OR POLYVINYL CHLORIDE UTENSILS OR PACKAGING.

EXEMPTIONS ARE IN INCLUDED IN THE BILL FOR HOSPITALS AND NURSING HOMES OTHER STATES PLAN TO FOLLOW THEIR LEAD. IF SIMILAR LEGISLATION WAS PASSED IN NOVA SCOTIA THINK OF THE DIFFERENCE THIS WOULD MAKE. IN PICTOU COUNTY WITH A DISPOSAL COST OF 11.00 PER TON A SAVING OF 30 PER CENT WOULD AMOUNT TO $118,110.00 .

LITTER IS A PROBLEM THAT HAS BEEN AROUND FOR A LONG TIME PROBABLY WHEN ADAM AND EVE ATE THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT THEY TOSSED THE CORE IN THE PATH THROUGH THE GARDEN SO WE WILL NOT PUT AND END TO LITTERING TO DAY OR THIS YEAR. IF WE ARE TO SOLVE A PROBLEM THIS LARGE WE MUST START WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN SCHOOL AND EDUCATE THEM AND SET EXAMPLES FOR THEM TO FOLLOW. THIS, ALONG WITH ENFORCABLE LAWS WILL BE OUR ONLY SOLUTION.

IN CONCULSION I WOULD LIKE TO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT RECYCLING. RECYCLING SHOULD BE USED A GREAT DEAL MORE THAN IT IS AT PRESENT. ITEMS SUCH AS NEWSPRINT,CARDBOARD,ALUMINUM AND GLASS CAN BE RECYCLED WITH NO MAJOR EQUIPMENT EXPENSE. ITEMS SUCH AS WHITE METALS AND SCRAP IRON COULD ALSO BE ADDED AS TIME WENT BY. ONE OF THE DETERRENCE TO RECYCLING IS THE FACT THAT WHEN COMMUNITIES START OUT TO RECYCLE THEY ARE NOT REALISTIC IN THE PRECENTAGE OF WASTE THEY HOPE TO RECYCLE. FOR EXAMPLE THEY EXTIMATE A 35% RECYCLING RATE WHEN A MORE REALASTIC FIGURE IS PERHAPS 13% AND SOON PEOPLE BEGIN TO LOSE INTEREST. A FEW MONTHS AGO THE CITY OF BOSTON ANNOUNCED IT WOULD BE RECYCLING 50 PERCENT OF

THEIR WASTE BY 1990 THAT FIGURE HAS SINCE BEEN DOWN GRADED TO 30 PERCENT AND ALREADY THEY ARE ADMITTING THAT 12 TO 15 PERCENT MIGHT BE MORE IN LINE WITH WHAT IS POSSIBLE. IF THEY HAD STARTED OUT TRYING FOR 12 TO 15 PERCENT AND WORKED UPWARD THE CHANCE OF SUPPORT FROM THE PUBLIC MIGHT BE GREATER.

IN SMALL COMMUNITIES SUCH AS IN PICTOU COUNTY RECYCLING SHOULD BE SET UP IN THE CENTER OF THE POPULATED AREAS. THIS WAY PEOPLE WOULD BRING THEIR CARDBOARD AND NEWSPRINT TO THE RECYCLER AND IT WOULD NOT BE MIXED WITH THE REGULAR WASTE STREAM AND LOST. THE IDEAL SYSTEM WOULD BE CURBSIDE PICKUP OF SORTED MATERIALS THAT COULD BE RECYCLED. BUT WITH A POPULATION BASE AS SMALL AS OURS I DO NOT FEEL IT WOULD BE A BREAK EVEN OPERATION.

AS WITH ANY OPERATION OF THIS SORT THE MARGIN FOR PROFIT IS SMALL OR NONE EXISTANT. PERHAPS A RECYCLING PLANT WOULD HAVE TO BE RUN BY THE MUNICIPALITY INVOLVED AND ANY SAVING IN LAND AND OPERATION COST OF THE LANDFILL SITE COULD BE INCLUDED IN THE SELLING PRICE OF THE RECYCLED MATERIAL SO THE BALANCE SHEET COULD BE IN THE BLACK. IT WOULD THEN PROVIDE SOME EMPLOYMENT. SAVE SPACE IN THE LANDFILL SITE AND SAVE RAW MATERIALS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION.

IF WE CONTINUE TO USE RAW MATERIALS AT THE RATE WE DO TODAY WHAT WILL OUR GREAT-GRAND CHILDREN DO FOR THE THINGS THAT WE NOW TAKE FOR GRANTED.

REFERENCES

(1) HANDBOOK OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
edited by David Gordon Wilson-
Van-Nostrant Reinhold Co. 1977

July 27, 1988

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD, MY NAME IS DANNY MACLEOD CHAIRMAN OF THE LITTER COMMITTEE FOR THE TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW.

DURING THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS THE CONTROL OF LITTER AND DISPOSAL OF WASTE MATERIAL HAS BEEN A TOP PRIORITY ITEM, NOT ONLY FOR COUNCIL BUT ALSO THE CITIZENS AND BUSINESSES WITHIN NEW GLASGOW.

NOT ONLY ARE WE STRIVING FOR A "CLEAN LOOKING" COMMUNITY BUT ALSO AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE ONE.

I WILL LIST SEVERAL STEPS TOWN COUNCIL HAS TAKEN REGARDING THE EVER EXISTING PROBLEM OF COLLECTIONS AND DISPOSAL

1) IDENTIFICATION AND VERIFICATION OF CLOSED OR ABANDONED LAND DISPOSAL SITES IN NEW GLASGOW.

2) CONDUCT GARBAGE BLITZS WITHIN THE TOWN CARRIED OUT IN THE SPRING AND FALL BY VARYING ORGANIZATIONS. GARBAGE BAGS AND A TOWN TRUCK ARE PROVIDED BY THE TOWN ALONG WITH A NOMINAL DONATION TO THE SPECIFIC ORGANIZATION.

3) AN AD HOC COMMITTEE BE APPOINTED CONSISTING OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL AND CITIZENS TO LOOK AT ADDITIONAL IDEAS TO KEEP THE TOWN CLEAN AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT.

4) STUDENTS OF THE NEW GLASGOW HIGH SCHOOL BE ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LITTER COMMITTEE BY MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROJECTS THAT COULD BE UNDERTAKEN TO RID THE TOWN OF LITTER.

5) EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE CONTROL OF LITTER BE INCLUDED IN OUR 1988 BUDGET.

6) FOUR INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN HIRED BY THE TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW TO CARRY OUT THE GARBAGE COLLECTION DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS AND THAT AN AD BE PLACED IN THE NEWS ADVISING THAT IF CITIZENS HAD ANY CONCERNS REGARDING GARBAGE COLLECTION TO CONTACT THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT.

7) ADS PLACED IN THE NEWS REGARDING PLACING GARBAGE OUT TOO EARLY AND THE GARBAGE BY-LAW BE PLACED IN THE NEWSPAPER.

8) ALL RESIDENTS WHO HAD NOT BEEN CONNECTED TO SANITARY SEWER ARE NOW REQUIRED TO DO SO.

9) THE TOWN IS PRESENTLY STUDYING THE DERELECT VEHICLE PROGRAM WHICH WILL RID THE AREA OF OLD VEHICLES BY MEANS OF TOWING AWAY, CRUSHING AND RE-CYCLING THE MATERIAL REMAINING.

10) OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT IN NEW GLASGOW IS PREPARING A PROGRAM WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED IN THE SCHOOLS REGARDING LITTER CONTROL. THE TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW WOULD LIKE TO SEE NON-RETURNABLE BOTTLES TAKEN OFF SHELVES AND REPLACED BY RETURNABLE ONES. FAST FOOD OUTLETS SHOULD BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN LITTER CONTROL BY JOINTLY FUNDING VARIOUS GROUPS IN CLEAN UP DAYS. IMPOSE STIFFER FINES AND PENALTIES FOR PEOPLE WHO ABUSE LITTER LAWS. BUSINESSES COULD PROVIDE LITTER BAGS FOR USE IN CARS WITH THEIR BUSINESS LOGS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER.

IN CLOSING LITTER CONTROL AND WISE ENVIRONMENTAL USEAGE HAS MADE GREAT STRIDES DURING THE RECENT YEARS. HOPEFULLY MODERN TECHNOLOGY WILL PROVIDE US WITH MORE AND IMPROVED BIO-DEGRADABLE GARBAGE BAGS ETC. WHICH WILL LESSEN CONCERN IN THIS AREA. PUBLIC EDUCATION AND AWARENESS IS ON THE INCREASE; SOME CONCERNS OF STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN A MOCK COUNCIL MEETING STAGED BY OUR TOWN IN MAY WERE THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE TOWN PROCLAIM A CLEAN-UP DAY AND WOULD ALSO LIKE SOME BETTER POLICING OF LITTER IN THE TOWN.

THE TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW FULLY SUPPORTS THE CLEAN NOVA SCOTIA FOUNDATION AND WE HOPE THAT OUR CONTRIBUTION, HOWEVER SMALL, WILL HELP THE FOUNDATION ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVE.

BRIEF

PRESENTED ON BEHALF OF

THE PICTOU WEST PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

TO

THE TASK FORCE ON LITTER ABATEMENT

BRIEF

TO: TASK FORCE ON LITTER ABATEMENT

THIS BRIEF IS PRESENTED ON BEHALF OF THE PICTOU WEST PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION AND ALSO WE BELIEVE IT IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TOWN OF PICTOU AND THE WESTERN PORTION OF PICTOU COUNTY.

WE CONSIDER LITTER ABATEMENT AS A MATTER REQUIRING IMMEDIATE ATTENTION IN IMPLEMENTATION OF EFFECTIVE MEASURES. WE FEEL THAT HEAVIER PENALTIES FOR LITTERING AND A DETAILED SYSTEM OF COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF GARBAGE AND WASTE PAPER THAT POLLUTES OUR LANDS AND WATERS WOULD BE A POSITIVE FIRST STEP. THESE MEASURES ALONE, HOWEVER, ARE NOT SUFFICIENT AND IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT THE LONG TERM OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE TO EDUCATE THE GENERAL PUBLIC AS TO THE DAMAGE INFLICTED UPON OUR LANDSCAPE AND WATERWAYS.

THE LANDS ADJACENT TO OUR HIGHWAYS HAVE BECOME THE DISPOSAL GROUNDS FOR GARBAGE AND TRASH FROM VARIOUS SOURCES. THESE ACTS SHOW A CALLOUS DISREGARD FOR THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS. AGAIN, I WOULD SUGGEST THAT A THREE-ARMED CAMPAIGN MUST BE MOUNTED AND CONTINUED INDEFINITELY; THAT IS, EDUCATION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC, STRONGER PENALTIES AND ADEQUATE CLEAN-UP SYSTEMS.

WE ARE AWARE THAT THIS TASK FORCE IS ADDRESSING THE DISPOSAL PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE THROWAWAY OF CONVENIENCE CONTAINERS. THIS INVESTIGATION INCLUDES A REVIEW OF LITTER AND RECYCLING PROGRAMS IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS. WE COMMEND YOUR EFFORTS IN THIS REGARD AND URGE THAT YOUR TASK FORCE AND THE PROVINCE MAKE A

COMMITMENT TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH EFFECTIVE MEASURES. WE CERTAINLY CAN LEARN FROM THE MISTAKES THAT OTHER JURISDICTIONS HAVE MADE AND WE ALSO CAN BENEFIT BY IMPLEMENTING SOME OF THEIR MORE POSITIVE PROGRAMS.

THE MEMBERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION, AND I, BELIEVE A GREAT MAJORITY OF THE PUBLIC SEE THE GATHERING AND DISPOSAL OF WASTE OF ALL KINDS TO BE A MAJOR PROBLEM OF THE 1980'S AND WASTE DISPOSAL IS A PROBLEM THAT WILL BE AROUND FOR DECADES TO COME. WE HOPE THAT BY THE START OF THE NEXT DECADE, WE WILL HAVE MOVED WELL ALONG ON REMEDIAL AND PREVENTATIVE PROGRAMS.

WE ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT PROPOSALS FOR MORE EFFECTIVE DISPOSAL OR ALTERNATIVELY, REGULATION OF THROWAWAY CONTAINERS. A MAJOR TASK FACING THIS AND FUTURE GENERATIONS, WILL BE THE EDUCATION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC AS REGARDS THE GATHERING AND RECYCLING OF VARIOUS TYPES OF WASTE. THIS WILL REQUIRE A WELL-DIRECTED PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN THAT WILL CONTINUE FROM YEAR TO YEAR. THIS PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN WILL REQUIRE INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS TO GRASP PUBLIC ATTENTION AND CO-OPERATION. WASTE DISPOSAL AND WASTE MANAGEMENT IS A PROBLEM THAT BEGINS WITH EACH AND EVERY MEMBER OF OUR SOCIETY AND IT WILL REQUIRE THE CO-OPERATION OF EACH AND EVERY MEMBER OF THAT SOCIETY TO DEAL WITH THE CHALLENGES PRESENTED BY WASTE DISPOSAL.

WE FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS IN OUR SCHOOLS WILL MAKE FUTURE GENERATIONS MORE CONSCIOUS OF OUR ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AND THE NEED TO CONSERVE OUR NATURAL VALUES. THIS WOULD BE

A FIRST STEP IN HAVING FUTURE GENERATIONS LIVE IN HARMONY WITH OUR ENVIRONMENT.

WE BELIEVE THAT YOUR TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT WILL PROVIDE A CONSTRUCTIVE AND HIGHLY EFFECTIVE BASIS FOR THE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF OUR ENVIRONMENT IN THE YEARS AHEAD. THIS IS BUT ONE IMPORTANT SECTOR OF OUR OVERALL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENT. WE TRUST THAT WE ALL CAN LEARN FROM THE INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THIS TASK FORCE THROUGH THE VARIOUS PRESENTATIONS. THE CHALLENGE OF WORKING IN HARMONY WITH OUR ENVIRONMENT IS A CHALLENGE THAT WE MUST FACE FOR WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LOSE THAT BATTLE.

TED SCANLON

RODDIE SMITH

AT FIRST I WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME YOU ALL HERE, MADAM CHAIRPERSON, DOROTHY GRANT AND THE REST OF THIS "TASK FORCE ON LITTER ABATEMENT".

MY OWN PERSONAL PERCEPTION OF THE SITUATION OF LITTER MAY BE A LITTLE FAR FETCHED BUT AFTER ALL IT IS MY OPINION. I FEEL THAT WE AS A HUMAN RACE ARE A BUNCH OF PIGS, AND CONTINUE TO PASS THE BUCK AND IGNORE THE SITUATION WHICH I FEEL IS REACHING THE CRISIS STAGE. WHEN I MENTION IT TO OTHERS "LITTER" THAT IS, THEIR REPLY IS "IT'S ONLY A CHIP BAG, OR IT'S ONLY ONE BOTTLE". BUT THE MOST COMMON REPLY IS THAT "HEY, IT'S ALL RIGHT, AFTER ALL AREN'T WE CREATING A JOB FOR A STUDENT NEXT SUMMER TO GATHER THIS LITTER", OR "IF IT WASN'T FOR US LITTERING, HOW MANY PEOPLE WOULD BE OUT OF A JOB."

THESE I FEEL ARE SEVERE ATTITUDE PROBLEMS. IT IS THIS ATTITUDE THAT WE MUST BE ABLE TO CHANGE BEFORE WE CAN SUCCESSFULLY CHANGE THE LITTER PROBLEM OF TODAY.

IT SORT OF REMINDS ME OF THE COMMERCIAL ON WHAT IS THE BEST COLA, DRIVE THROUGH THESE UP RIVER TOWNS AND JUDGE FOR YOURSELF. THERE ARE ENOUGH OF THESE BOTTLES LYING ON THE GROUND. YOU MIGHT ALSO BE ABLE TO PICK OUT THE BEST SELLING POTATO CHIPS ALONG WITH THE BEST SELLING FOUNTAIN POP AS THERE ARE ENOUCH CHIP BAGS AND PAPER/PLASTIC CUPS ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD ALSO.

IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD AT HOME IT IS A DISGRACE DURING THE SCHOOL MONTHS AND LIGHTENS UP IN THE SUMMER.

I COME FROM A SMALL TOWN THAT ONLY HAS FIVE SCHOOLS. AFTER A RECENT WALK AND VISIT TO ALL THESE SCHOOLS THERE WAS NOT ONE GARBAGE CANS THERE FOR THE CHILDREN TO DISPOSE OF THEIR EXCESS RECESS WRAPPERS OR ANY OTHER TREAT FOR THAT MATTER.

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NEXT DOOR TO ME IS A GENTLEMAN WHO OWNS A COMMERCIAL PROPERTY, I FEEL THAT THIS LOWERS THE TAXES IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD, AS HE RUNS A TRACTOR TRAILOR REPAIR DEPOT FOR HIS TRUCKING FIRM AND MUCH OF THE SPARE PARTS ARE LITTERED AROUND HIS PROPERTY, HE HAS NO FENCE.

I WORK IN A STEEL PLANT SO THE LITTER THERE IS KEPT UNDER CONTROL BY OUR LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

I PERSONALLY BELIEVE THAT THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRESENT SITUATION OF THIS LITTER PROBLEM.

WE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO MANUFACTURE THESE PRODUCTS, WE'RE ALSO THE PERSONS WHO PURCHASE THEM. WE ARE ALSO THE PEOPLE WHO, WITH A PASSIVE ATTITUDE, CHOOSE NOT TO USE THE GARBAGE CANS, WHEN PROVIDED. THIS IS ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS FOR THIS 'MAN MADE PROBLEM'.

THE SECOND CONTRIBUTOR TO THIS PROBLEM IS THE "LAW ENFORCERS". WE MAKE LAWS TO PROTECT US. WE HIRE LAW ENFORCERS TO ENFORCE THESE LAWS. WHEN THEY STOP ENFORCING THE LAWS WE DEVELOP A PROBLEM BE IT DRINKING UNDER AGE OR LITTER.

WHEN ONE LOOKS FOR THE SOLUTION TO THE LITTER PROBLEM I FEEL THAT HE TENDS TO PASS THE BUCK. I FEEL THAT THIS GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT STEPS TO THE "LITTER SOLUTION", BY "FIRST ADMITTING WE HAVE A LITTER PROBLEM", AND SECOND BY IMPLIMENTING THIS "NOVA SCOTIA MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT'S TASK FORCE ON LITTER ABATEMENT".

SUGGESTION # 1 DUMPS OPEN LATER

IN OUR MUNICIPALITY WE HAVE ONE MUNICIPAL DUMP. DEPENDING ON WHERE YOU LIVE HERE YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET TO THE DUMP AND UNLOAD THE GARBAGE THE DUMP TRUCKS WON'T TAKE. IF NOT, THEN I GUESS YOU WILL HAVE TO DRIVE THROUGH OUT COUNTRY SIDE AND DUMP IT ANYWHERE YOU CAN BEFORE SOMEONE SEES YOU. IT'S NO WONDER THE FARMERS ARE UPSET.

SUGGESTION # 2 DRIVERS BE MADE TO COVER GARBAGE IN BACK OF TRUCKS

THERE ARE MANY TRUCKS THAT DRIVE AROUND OUR COUNTY AND HAVE GARBAGE SUCKED OUT OF THE BACK OF THEM. RECENTLY A TRUCK WITH A LOAD OF CARPET ENDS ON THE BACK, MANY OF WHICH WERE SUCKED OUT OF THE TRUCK WHICH WASN'T COVERED AND WAS REPORTED TO OUR TOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT. THEY IN RETURN PHONED THE TOWN WORKS WHO CAME OUT ON OVERTIME AND CLEANED UP THE MESS. THE DRIVER OF THE TRUCK WAS NOT CHARGED AND DIDN'T HAVE TO PAY THE BILL FOR CLEAN UP, WE THE TAX PAYERS IN THE TOWN DID.

SUGGESTION # 3 ROADSIDE GARBAGE DUMPING STATION

MANY OF THE TRAILER PARKS ARE ADVERTISING THAT THEY HAVE "WASTE DISPOSAL STATIONS". I WONDER IF THERE IS ANY REASON WHY THE PROVINCIAL PARKS CAN'T ADVERTISING THAT THEY ARE PROVIDING A "LITTER OR GARBAGE DUMPING STATION". ALL THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED WOULD BE A COMMERCIAL DUMPSTER.

SUGGESTION # 4 DUMP SITE IN TOWN - COMMERCIAL DUMPSTER

MANY TOWN OWNED DUMP SITES ARE NOW CLOSED. I WONDER IF IT WOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE FOR THE TOWN TO PLACE A LARGE DUMPSTER, ON TOWN LAND, NEAR THE TOWN BARNS. ONCE RESIDENTS BECAME AWARE OF IT AND ITS PRESENCE MAYBE THEY WOULD USE IT AFTER THE DUMPS CLOSED INSTEAD OF OUR LOCAL COUNTRYSIDES. MAY ALSO PROVE BENEFICIAL TO THE HOME OWNER WHO MISSED GARBAGE PICKUP.

SUGGESTION # 5 RECYCLING

I FEEL THAT THIS IS PROBABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT TO THE LITTER SOLUTION. IF WE CAN GET ACROSS TO MOST NOVA SCOTIANS THAT RECYCLING IS EFFICIENT, PRODUCTIVE, CLEANER AND BENEFICIAL TO THE ENVIRONMENT THEN WE WILL BE MAKING SOME HEADWAY.

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SUGGESTION # 6 RECYCLING STATIONS OR PICK-UP

IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY I FEEL THAT WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SUPPORT OUR OWN RECYCLING STATIONS. MAYBE IF THE TOWNS JOINED TOGETHER AND HAD A RECYCLING STATION SHARED BETWEEN ALL THEN IT MIGHT BE EASIER.

ONE OF OUR LOCAL SERVICE GROUPS HAS A PAPER DRIVE ON THE SAME WEEK END OF THE MONTH. I WONDER IF WE COULD MAYBE HAVE A GLASS DRIVE ON A DIFFERENT WEEKEND OF THE MONTH OR MAYBE A TIN CAN DRIVE? DIFFERENT SPORTS GROUPS ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MONEY, MAYBE THIS IS AN IDEA THAT THEY CAN TRY TO RAISE MONEY AND ALSO TO HELP CLEAN UP THE ENVIRONMENT.

SUGGESTION # 7 SEPARATE GARBAGE - FOR RECYCLEABLES

I MADE REFERENCE TO THE FACT THAT MAYBE WE CAN PUT A DUMPSTER ON TOWN LAND NEAR TOWN BARNS FOR GARBAGE. I WONDER IF MAYBE WE COULD PUT SAY THREE SMALL ONES THERE. ONE FOR GLASS, ONE FOR PAPER, AND ONE FOR TIN OR METAL.

THERE ARE TOWNS NOW IN THE STATES THAT ARE RUNNING OUT OF DUMP SITES. THEY HAVE IMPLIMENTED A RECYCLING SYSTEM THAT YOU MUST SEPARATE YOUR GARBAGE AND PLACE IT INTO SEPARATE COLORED GARBAGE CONTAINERS. THE TOWN GATHERS THE GARBAGE AND DIFFERENT SERVICE GROUPS PICK UP THE GLASS, PLASTIC, PAPER AND TIN CANS.

SUGGESTION # 8 GARBAGE DESIGNATED AT DUMP SITES

I KNOW AT OUR LOCAL DUMP THAT THEY HAVE A SEPARATE SPOT FOR METAL. PERHAPS IN THE FUTURE THEY MAY ALSO BE ABLE TO DESIGNATE SPOTS FOR GLASS AND CARDBOARD.

.../5

SUGGESTION # 9 GATHER GARBAGE OR LITTER FOR MONEY

I LIVED IN LABRADOR FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS. ONE OF OUR SCHOOLS LARGEST FUND RAISERS WAS TO "GATHER GARBAGE FOR MONEY". THE IDEA WAS THAT THE STUDENTS WALKED ALONG THE SIDE OF THE ROADS AND FILLED GARBAGE BAGS WITH LITTER, AND THE SCHOOL RECEIVED SO MUCH FOR EACH BAG. THE BAGS WERE SUPPLIED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION. THE MONEY WAS PAID THROUGH THE PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

SUGGESTION # 10 AUTO GARBAGE BAGS SUPPLIED BY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

I BELONG TO THE NEW GLASGOW CREDIT UNION. WHEN I GO THERE THEY HAVE THESE DANDY LITTLE GARBAGE BAGS THAT YOU CAN TAKE IN YOUR VEHICLE WITH YOU. THESE BAGS ARE NOT MUCH BIGGER THAN THE AVERAGE LUNCH BAG AND ARE NOT A BIG PROBLEM TO BRING IN THE HOUSE WITH YOU TO DISPOSE OF. IF THE CREDIT UNION CAN SUPPLY THEM, WHY NOT HAVE THEM IN OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AS WELL? THEY'RE SMALL, HANDY AND ITS FREE ADVERTISING.

SUGGESTION # 11 DEGRADABLE PLASTIC

I FEEL THAT THE SOBEY STORE DESERVE A PAT ON THE BACK FOR BRINGING INTO USE THE FIRST DEGRADEABLE PLASTIC. THIS I FEEL IS SOMETHING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT SHOULD MAKE LAW WITH ALL CARRY OUT BAGS, THAT THEY BE MADE OF 'DEGRADEABLE PLASTIC'.

YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED THAT WHEN I MADE REFERENCE TO RECYCLING THAT I DIDN'T MADE ANY REFERENCE TO PLASTIC. THIS IS BECAUSE I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THEY SHOULD BE MADE OF DEGRADEABLE PLASTIC, BE IT SHAMPOO BOTTLES, JAVEX OR POP BOTTLES. THE VAPOURS THAT ARE GIVEN OFF PLASTIC WHEN IT BURNS IS TOO HARMFUL FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT. SO RATHER THAN BURN IT, LET IT DISSOLVE, IT MAYBE SAFER AND HEALTHIER IN THE LONG RUN.

.../6

SUGGESTION # 12 PUT A BAN ON NON RETURNABLE BOTTLES

OUR ROADSIDES ARE LITTERED WITH MANY OF THE NON-RETURNABLE BOTTLES. THERE GLASS IS VISIBLE ON MANY OF OUR STREETS. IF FEEL WE SHOULD GO BACK TO "RETURNABLE BOTTLES" AS WAS DONE ON PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND. THERE WOULDN'T BE AS MANY BOTTLES LITTERED AROUND THEN, AS MANY PEOPLE WILL GATHER THEM UP FOR THE CASH RETURN AS WE ARE AWARE OF HOW OUR HUMAN RACE IS BECOMING GREEDY. IN THE LARGER TWO AND THREE LITRE BOTTLES I WONDER IF THERE PLASTIC COULDN'T BE MADE OF THE 'DEGRADEABLE PLASTIC'.

SUGGESTION #13 HAVE POLICE START ENFORCING LAWS

THERE ARE ALREADY LAWS AGAINST LITTERING. AS STATED EARLIER, THE POLICE DON'T WANT TO ENFORCE THEM FOR SOME REASON. THE ATTORNEY GENERALS OFFICE SENT A LETTER TO OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT TO START TO ENFORCE THE 'SEAT BELT LAW'. WHY CAN'T OUR ENVIRONMENT DEPT. APPROACH THE ATTORNEY GENERALS OFFICE AND ASK HIM TO SEND OUT A LETTER INSISTING THAT THEY ENFORCE THE 'LITTER LAWS'. I VERY MUCH DOUBT IF THERE HAS BEEN ENOUGH FINES LAID AGAINST 'LITTER BUGS' TO PAY FOR THE LITTER SIGNS ALONG OUR ROADWAYS!

SUGGESTION # 14 FINE THEM, DON'T JUST WARN THEM

WE WOULD HAVE TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE IN AMHERST WHERE THREE PEOPLE WERE PROSECUTED FOR LITTERING, NOW MUCH OF THIS LITTERING HAS STOPPED IN "LITTLE FORKS". IF THE LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT EVER DO DECIDE TO ISSUE A TICKET TO A LITTER BUG, I HOPE THAT IT IS NOT A WARNING AND THE TICKET HOLDER IS PROSECUTED. MAYBE THEN THE RESIDENTS MIGHT TAKE LITTERING SERIOUSLY.

.../7

SUGGESTION # 15 STIFFER FINES

WE ALREADY HAVE A FINE SYSTEM IN PLACE THAT WAS SUFFICIENT FOR 10 YEARS AGO. THE PROBLEM IS NOW 10 TIMES AS BAD SO THE FINES SHOULD BE 10 TIMES AS GREAT TO WHAT THEY WERE. IF THE MAXIMUM FINE IS $100, MAKE IT $1000. AND SO ON. NOW THE PERSON WHO HAS LOTS OF MONEY WOULD BE ABLE TO PAY THE FINE, BUT WHAT ABOUT THE MAN WITH LESS MONEY???

SUGGESTION # 16 PARTICIPATE IN ROADSIDE CLEANUP IF YOU HAVE NO MONEY FOR FINES, AND REPEAT OFFENDERS

I FEEL THE SUGGESTION IS VERY MUCH SELF EXPLANATORY. IF YOU HAVE NO MONEY THEN YOU WOULD BE MADE TO DO COMMUNITY SERVICE IN THE FORM OF 'ROADSIDE CLEANUP' THIS WOULD ALSO GO FOR THE REPEAT OFFENDER, IRREGARDLESS OF HOW MUCH MONEY HE/SHE HAS. IT MIGHT TEACH HIM/HER A LESSON. OR IF THEY WANT TO PAY THE FINE INSTEAD OF PARTICIPATING IN ROADSIDE CLEANPU THEN SET IT AT SUCH AN AMOUNT THAT IT MAY EVEN AFFECT THEIR OWN POCKET BOOK, MAYBE 2,3, OR $4000 DOLLARS.

SUGGESTION #17 COMMUNITY CLEAN UPS

OUR TOWN HAS ONE WEEK OF EVERY YEAR SET ASIDE FOR OUR "SPRING CLEAN UP". DURING THIS WEEK THE TOWN VEHICLES ALL DRIVE AROUND OUR TOWN AND GATHER THE GARBAGE THAT ISN'T NORMALLY PICKED UP BY OUR GARBAGE TRUCKS. I WONDER IF OTHER TOWNS WOULDN'T PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM? IT MIGHT BE A START LOCALLY! WE ARE ALL AWARE OF THE FACT THAT EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS, AND WE HAVE TO START SOMEWHERE.

.../8

SUGGESTION # 18 GOVERNMENT TO PUT GARBAGE CONTAINERS ON THEIR OWN PROPERTY.

AS STATED EARLIER OUR TOWN HAS FIVE SCHOOLS WHICH WOULD MEAN FIVE PLAYGROUNDS. NOT ONE OF THESE SCHOOLS HAVE A GARBAGE CAN THE LIQUOR STORE, IN OUR TOWN DOESN'T HAVE A GARBAGE CAN IN FRONT OF IT. THE POST OFFICE, DOESN'T HAVE A GARBAGE CAN IN FRONT OF IT. THE GOVERNMENT ADMITTED THAT THERE IS A PROBLEM, SO THEY TOO SHOULD PUT INTO PLACE 'GARBAGE CANS' AND SET THE EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS. AFTER ALL, IT IS GOING TO HAVE TO BE A COMBINED EFFORT OF COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT THAT IS GOING TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM.

THE ABOVE BRIEF CONTAINED A FEW OF MY OWN PERSONAL IDEAS. SOME OF THESE MAY BE VALID TO THIS HEARING, FOR THIS I AM GLAD I COULD HELP. SOME OTHERS MAY HAVE BEEN OF NO VALUE TO YOU, FOR THIS I'M SORRY FOR WASTING YOUR TIME.

AT THIS TIME I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE COMMISSION FOR NOT ONLY LISTENING TO MY BRIEF BUT ALSO FOR OPENING MY EYES TO THE FACT OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM OF LITTER.

I WISH YOU ALL A SAFE JOURNEY HOME, AS MANY OF YOU LIVE IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF OUR PROVINCE.

THANK YOU AGAIN,

RODDIE SMITH

SUBMISSION TO : THE NOVA SCOTIA MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT'S TASK FORCE ON LITTER ABATEMENT

The Municipality of the
County of Pictou
P.O. Box 910
Pictou, N. S.
B0K 1H0

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Chairperson, Members of the Task Force, Ladies and Gentlemen;

The Municipality of the County of Pictou recognizes that we are living in an era where litter of all kinds is becoming an increasing problem. This litter consists of everything from bottle caps to large machinery and their component parts. If it is not up to par, the wrong color, or out of date, out it goes; be it a refrigerator or farm tractor. The Municipality finds that not all of this material reaches any type of landfill or junk collection point. Ever increasing numbers and sizes of hidden dump areas are in existance. Through the use of its By-Law Enforcement Officer, the Municipality endeavors to have these impromptu dump sites closed and the depositors clean up the area.

The Municipality of Pictou County therefore supports the following:

(1) Education course on litter and littering in schools.

(2) All glass bottles be returnable.

(3) Massive media programme on litter.

(4) A survey to determine the number of repeat offenders that are fined (with a recommendation to increase second offense fines).

(5) Provide readily accessible trash containers at all convenience stores or high areas of trash accumulation.

(6) Declare certain days of the year as clean up days, involving schools, youth groups, garbage contractors, recycling companies, etc.

(7) Provide start-up grants to recycling companies and as much help as possible to establish these ventures in all areas of the Province.

The Municipality of the County of Pictou looks forward to the Task Force's recommendations on the litter problem. Hopefully you will be able to find long lasting solutions to the problems.

Respectfully submitted,

Law Amendments Committee of
Municipal Council
Municipality of Pictou County

July 27, 1988

The Minister of the Task Force on Litter Abatement
P.O. Box 2528
Station M
Halifax, N. S. B3J 3N5

Christopher MacFarlane

Madam Chairman, Members of Task Force, Ladies and Gentlemen:

One of the most discouraging problems we have here in Nova Scotia is our litter problem. It is a problem that concerns the old and the young. I am here to talk about some of the ways we can help to overcome this problem as young people.

Every school principal and school teacher should be encouraged to give positive reinforcement to children who are concerned about the litter problem and school areas should be regularly cleaned by students. Special kids garbage cans should be found on school routes.

More attention should be paid in our social studies lessons to finding ways to keep our province clean. We could be encouraged to collect recyclable materials for fund raising projects in our schools. We could be taking field trips to recycling plants or incinerators to see these places in action.

I think it would be a wise decision to have more deposits on non-biodegradable materials so that if a person returns wrappers, they will get their deposit back. We, as children, should also be more educated as to what "litter" is valuable, and what may be recycled.

Finally for all of us, both young and old, I feel that the firty dollar litter fine should be strictly enforced.

PATTERSON STREET P. O. BOX 57

LONGARDENS
MRS. H. E. LONG
PICTOU, NOVA SCOTIA

THE LITTER ABATEMENT COMMITTEE:
EDUCATION, BEGINNING IN PRIMARY CLASSES AND CONTINUING.
SERVICE CLUBS, WOMEN'S INSTITUTES, 4H CLUBS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS COULD KEEP THE MESSAGE BEFORE THE PUBLIC.

RECYCLE: OF COURSE ALL BEVERAGE CONTAINERS SHOULD BE RETURNABLE.
GARBAGE CAN BE AND IS IN SOME PLACES SEPARATED INTO CONTAINERS FOR PAPER, PLASTIC, GLASS AND METAL, BEFORE PICKUP. THERE ARE NOW RULES CONCERNING PLACING OF GARBAGE FOR PICKUP, SEPARATION OF MATERIALS COULD BE ENFORCED IN THE SAME WAY.

PREVENTION: BY FAR THE MOST IMPORTANT METHOD OF HANDLING THE PROBLEM.
MANUFACTURERS CAN PROVIDE US WITH MERCHANDIZE WITHOUT ENCASING IT IN INCREASINGLY ELABORATE LAYERS OF PLASTIC AND CARDBOARD. UNOPENED BUNDLES OF NEWSPAPERS AND CATALOGS STUFFED IN CULVERTS OR THROWN IN BUSHES WOULD CEASE IF THE EMPLOYER INVESTIGATED THE CAUSE OF NON-DELIVERY.
BIODEGRADABLE PLASTIC IS COMING BUT IN THE MEANTIME THE STORES MIGHT CONSIDER A CASH DISCOUNT FOR RETURN OF CLEAN REUSABLE BAGS, OR A FEW CENTS OFF FOR THE CUSTOMER WHO SUPPLIES HIS OWN BAGS.
PUBLIC TRASH CONTAINERS ARE OFTEN HARD TO FIND.
THERE SHOULD BE A STIFF FINE FOR ANYONE CAUGHT LITTERING.
THE QUESTION OF GARBAGE DISPOSAL IS NOW UNANSWERABLE. IT WOULD SEEM LOGICAL TO PREVENT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE OF THE PROBLEM.

Mrs H E Long

Schedule of Presentations

HALIFAX

July 28, 1988

Ecology Action Centre
Archie's Sackville Bottle Exchange
Keith Boutilier
Griffiths Muecke Associates
Atlantic Provinces Soft Drink Association
Adult Services Centre
Don Connors, Boy Scout Leader
Canadian Convertit Technology
Neema Kulkarni
Archie Fader
The Clean Nova Scotia Foundation

Lois Corbett
Ecology Action Centre

Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Question Period

What happened to your earlier paper tiger recycling programme?

There were problems with organizing the collectors and other people were taking the paper.

Does this suggest that people would still get involved in paper recycling?

Lots of people call to find if they can still recycle paper. They are not looking for any money. The revolution in recycling is spreading and it is a practical idea now as more people are aware of it. We certainly would not have to do as much public relations as we would have had 2-5 years ago.

Elaborate on your recycling conference?

Conferences are a good way of getting projects off the ground. It will cover two days (November 25/26) and we'll ask people from all sectors to attend. We are presently putting together financial proposals for government help. It will be at the Lord Nelson Hotel.

You record 1 kilogram of household waste per person in Ontario. Do you have comparison figures for Nova Scotia?

We predict that it will be the same in the metro area but with our large rural area the average may be lower.

You mentioned the metro authority study. When will it be ready?

It is scheduled for completion in September. The metropolitan authority will release it when they see fit. They are very concerned about their landfill site. It will last only two more years.

Will that project focus on paper?

It will look at all materials.

What is your experience with municipalities and elected officials?

The tide has changed. They realize they have to do more than putting things in landfill. They know that it will be a political battle to site a new landfill.

You are aware of the by-laws that prohibit composting in the metro area. What are you suggesting about apartment building recycling?
There are lots of different solutions. In Toronto they are just starting to handle recycling in apartments. As it is they all have to dump their garbage in bins so it is just a matter of having them divided.

The Earth can survive without people but we can not survive without the Earth.

Brad O'Connell
Archie's Sackville Bottle Exchange, Sackville

We have been in the bottle/beverage container recycling business for a long time. We operate on profits and don't get grants or subsidies. The operation is quite complex, especially the sorting of the different brands of beer bottles.
With regards to the Beverage Container Act as a bottle dealer handling refillable containers I prefer the system in Prince Edward Island with all refillables, no aluminum cans or plastic bottles. It makes for a very clean province. While we are waiting for changes to the Act we should either eliminate it or enforce it. There are too many people contravening it at this time.
The government is in the beer business and has a push on non-returnable containers. This has come about by their approval of the cold beer store which only serves non-returnables. The economic way to go would be all non-returnable. Processing the refillable bottles is very expensive but if we want to eliminate litter we have to control beverage containers.
Whatever happens it won't affect me. We'll keep on recycling with aluminum and paper and glass if someone comes up with a subsidy.

The biggest portion in landfill is paper at 52%. We do something to help by recycling. The best place to start is with paper and cardboard to reduce landfill. A very successful household recycling plan at best only reduces 12%-15% of the waste.

Brad O'Connell related his experience of viewing the collection systems, the equipment required and the processing in the Hamilton area where they also include steel cans. Their sorting depots really stink.

To reduce landfill stop people who are putting it there, especially industry. There must be some changes to change their ways. They should have to pay to dump recyclables. Just to bury is stated to cost $10-$15 per ton, but realistic disposal costs are $80-$100 per ton. Subsidies should be given to recyclers that relate to the costs diverted from landfill operations. Hopefully government will provide subsidies to existing recyclers rather than setting up new ones.

In June 1987 during Environment Week we collected glass and it was shipped for free. That made it worthwhile.

He is disappointed that collection people aren't represented on The Task Force. The KGB doesn't collect refillables.

Question Period

There is a trend towards plastic. How feasible would it be for you to get involved in PET container recycling?

No idea at this time.

Are you in favour of multi-material recycling at a household level?

I am not against it but it's not for me.

Are you in favour of deposits?

That is the only way you can get things back. Bigger the deposit the more you get back.

Regarding the blue boxes how would ....

The system that I saw in Hamilton used handicapped and it was costing money. I am not sure how well it is working.

Do you believe that recycling should be handled by private or non-profit groups?

I believe in a capitalist system but we need grants to improve recycling.

You said you would like to see a deposit on containers. Are you specifying only soft drink and beverage containers?

On anything. It doesn't matter what it is. If it has a value it will be returned.

How long have you been in the recycling business?

One and a half years and learning.

You mentioned protection for people already set up in the industry?

I wouldn't call it protection but if someone else comes in next to me, don't give him thousands of dollars to set up. Let him get loans like me. Don't create unfair competition.

Does education about recycling have to start at home?

It has to start at home.

Landfill sites are getting fuller and fuller. The day will come when a new landfill site is needed.

If landfill is the problem why go for glass and cans? You would be better to go for magazines and cardboard.

It is a start.

Keith Boutilier
Oakfield, Halifax County

Highway litter has increased. I have discovered that it is hard to get a litter bag for your car now. We used to get them at service stations and tourist bureaus. It is just part of giving service to customers. I would like to see service stations encouraged to give out litter bags and to empty them.

Fines are not high enough for highway littering. The $50 does not mean much. There should be more signs to encourage people not to litter on the highway. Property owners should be fined for having untidy lots. In shopping parking lots it is hard to find litter receptacles. The litter blows onto adjacent properties when uncontrolled.

The City of Halifax had a fine idea with its "dunk your junk" campaign, however it is hard to find litter receptacles. There should be a lot more. The City always argues about the expense to empty containers but how much does it cost to clean up? I wonder why there is no deposit on wine and spirit bottles. I would have no problem with recycling at home. Prince Edward Island is miles ahead of other provinces.

Question Period

Service stations found that litter bags were very expensive. Should fast food operators supply litter bags with take-out orders?

Yes. It is 14 miles to the closest McDonalds and I get their garbage. Garbage containers should be placed conveniently, e.g. so someone doesn't have to get out of the car.

Lesley Griffiths
Griffiths Muecke Associates

Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Question Period

Some municipalities seem to be uninformed about recycling. Should the provincial government help to inform municipalities?

The province should be seen to be promoting a policy. It is very important municipalities are not just left with this one. The province should provide guidance, push and support.

Do you have any suggestions regarding the opening times of dumps. People

can't get to the waste disposal sites so they dump on the side of the roads. Do you have a solution - how does user pay work?

I don't have an immediate solution to the first problem. Need more work with cottage associations and an adjustment in ours. Part of the solution is to have it picked up. With user pay, i.e. a tipping fee for commercial garbage, right now the mall owner just pays for a number of trips but does not pay to have it dumped. There is not enough incentive here to reduce garbage. We need to apply high tippage fees. Costs should be related back to the householder with a move towards billing for the amount of garbage.

What do you mean by tipping fee?

When BFI goes over the scales they would be billed a fee per ton which would be passed on to the customer.

What is the real cost of our garbage. I wish they would let us know how much it really costs us?

It is difficult to track that down though I expect that $35 per ton predicted for a new landfill site for metro is low. But this figure is just for disposal. You have to add on the $20 per ton for collection.

Most packaging is recyclable. Would you want government to make all packaging recyclable?

That would be great. If it couldn't be it should have a disposal tax added on to compensate.

Ron Lavergne
Atlantic Provinces Soft Drink Association

Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Ron Lavergne explained the involvement in the Atlantic provinces economy of the Soft Drink Association with many impressive figures. The APSDA does not include independents such as Big 8 Beverages (Sobeys) and McKinleys.

The Beverage Container Act is outright discrimination as it precludes too many products.

The focus is too narrow. Everyone has a role to play. All the components have to be brought into play. OMMRI isn't without problems simply because its focus is too narrow. There is a need to draw in other industries like the newspapers. The soft drink industry puts $20 million into the Ontario recycling programme. The focus has to be expanded.
Ron Lavergne enlarged on this brief.

Question Period

You say the Beverage Container Act is discriminatory yet we are told that retailers are avoiding this Act. Why have you allowed this to happen?
The $7 million our industry used to meet the requirements of the Act in 1978 was to invest in a glass float, new equipment, energy costs, trucks and buildings. The response from consumers has been an uphill battle to maintain the relationship of returnables to non-returnables in the market place. Society has changed dramatically to a throw away existence.

This government has not been policing and enforcing its Act. Litter is still a problem but since 1978 we have seen a proliferation of containers that are disguised as being disposable.

Legislation should be comprehensive/fair/non-discriminatory and be enforced. However I don't agree that you are complying with the Act as we know that the 50/50 rule is not being met or enforced. If you agree that bottles are 2.4% of the waste problem would you be willing to put forward 2.4% of the cost of disposal?

The Prince Edward Island laws are complex but refillable containers are not evident as litter?
Best to talk to the local bottlers there. They are not getting them all back.

Do you know what percentage of gross revenue goes to promotion in the soft drink industry?

Very difficult to work that out regionally as there is a National umbrella programme.

You say that soft drink bottles represent 2.4% of the waste stream. We have also seen other figures from other sources on volume. However we are looking for statistics of the make up of the components of the litter stream?

There has not been a comprehensive survey done. There could be something in the United States. I'll try to determine when last comprehensive survey done.

We know that 50,000 cords go into disposable diapers.

All our products are recyclable.

Sandy Leim
Halifax Adult Services Centre

Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Question Period

Who pays the cost of freighting from Saskatchewan to British Columbia?

I think the workshops are doing this, but I am not completely sure. There could be a deal with the processor.

What is the salary range they're paying?

I don't know that. It is a large activity centre and many people are there which are usually regarded as being unemployable.

How long has this been going on?

Aluminum cans have only been available in Saskatchewan this year though negotiations have been going on for ten years. Can recycling is new but paper recycling has been

happening for ten years.
So it has been profitable?
It has been proven.

Don Connors
Boy Scout Leader

Most of our scouts are from the Uniacke Square area of Halifax. We attended a provincial camp and saw a sign that said that for every 24 cans you return you get a $1. Our troop collected 80-90 cans. The idea was to keep the park clean as an example of good scouting. We later thought about this and decided to build our own project. By March 1st when the snow started to go we went out in uniform and scoured the streets for aluminum cans and beer bottles mostly as a clean up campaign. We took them to a church hall for storage. Each boy had a target. On bad weather days we counted up. The goals were in units rather than in dollars. However our target was 10,000 cans. We later crushed them to reduce their size and we cleaned up the glass and crushed it. We turned over 4 tons of crushed glass.

Question Period

Are you unique in this?
To my knowledge we are the only scouts. We would talk about garbage at leader meetings. We came to be known as the kids with the garbage. However when that transmitted into cash to cover camp they looked at it in a different way. Now, other troops are doing it.
How long have you been with the Boy Scouts?
Six years. Part of that time in group committee.
Did you do anything other than collect?
We separated it from the bags, the cans got squashed, the bottles got cleaned and we crushed them with a sledgehammer.

Did you graph it to know where it came from?

We tried that in one or two centres. At the container pier we went one weekend then had just as much to pick up in three weeks time. On Clam Harbour beach at the Police Boys & Girls Camp we put in an extra effort. It is being used as a local dump site. When we were there it was just like a main street dump with people coming and going all the time. We've taken 8 car bodies out and a large amount of garbage off it. It is now fenced and will be used again as a camp.

Do you know the proportions of different recyclables collected?

We have it by weight with glass being twice as much as aluminum.

What was the financial return for the time spent?

We did not log hours so we can't figure that out, however the picture in the newspaper was as just as rewarding to the kids.

Have other groups shown interest?

There are two though this is our quiet time. The Clean Nova Scotia Foundation article in their newsletter and the picture are being sent to our National magazine. We are accenting what the boys did for the environment.

How many boys took part?

We started with 7 and lost 3.

Do you feel that any of these boys will become litter bugs?

Perhaps only one out of four.

Did you see this as a good educational project?

Yes.

David Jonah, President
Canadian Convertit Technology

Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

I would like to talk about garbage as an opportunity rather than a problem. Garbage is the returned element of the best advertising and production systems available. We offer a process that has been under development for 30 years and is being demonstrated in pilot plants to reduce garbage in 21 days to a sandy like substance. The process does not replace recycling. It is a resource recovery process. The recyclables can be taken out as and when the price is appropriate. The process leaves a marketable substance at the end.

It is being used in Dade County in Florida and will be available to the Atlantic Provinces. We are looking for a municipal contract at this time to process garbage. The end result is a soil additive used to stabilize soils which could be particularly applicable to Third World situations via CIDA.

Jonah went through the process using a diagram in the literature he provided.

Question Period

What would you estimate is the fee for using this process?
$50-$60 per ton in a 400 ton per day plant. The larger the area served, the greater the volume and therefore the costs would be reduced. It is impossible to give an accurate cost though we hope to be on line at $15 less than that.

How many windrows would you need?
The Dade County plant is 300,000 square feet with 180,000 being used for windrows.

Some plastics when broken down can be toxic?
We are talking about the natural heat of a compost pile (175 degrees Fahrenheit) and it is the opinion of the government officials that this is within acceptable levels.

Is the process now in place?
I have seen a film of a plant and spent time in Florida where the plant is being built. I also have copies of various findings.

Will it handle heavy objects?

Yes, but this is an inefficient way of using the process.

Could this eliminate landfill?

Yes, except for the heavy industrial products.

Your processing fee sounds high compared with what we have heard for tipping?

It is like buying a used car. Landfill is very cheap. Prices range anywhere from $18 a ton for a open dump up to $90-$150 a ton. New laws in Ontario and soon in New Brunswick will restrict the environmental damage often caused by landfill. Our prices will be considerate.

In Halifax they handle about 800 tons per day. Would this mean two plants?

No, just a larger one.

Is the end product available in the United States today?

No, but it was at one time.

What will the price be for the product?

It will be about the same as peat moss or treated soil.

Do you assume that garbage is the same wherever you are?

Yes, an analysis has been done. The only thing that is different is that in the Southern States they get more green product year round.

Does your plant take everything?

Our process only takes household garbage which is 90% of the waste stream.

We could end up being complacent by just destroying the garbage to nothing?

It is the ultimate in garbage removal.

Neema Kulkarni and Pradeep Chandra
Grade 9 Student

Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Question Period

Did you try to encourage your school to do more recycling?
Last year they did collect for a class project for a short time.
Did you try to get your principal and students to carry it on?
We just started it up this summer.
How much newspaper did you collect?
Approximately 5 tons per year so that makes 10 tons. We take it to Scotia Recycling. Individual efforts of collecting newspaper are not economically feasible due to the cost of gas, etc. but a collective effort could be feasible.

Archie Fader
Sackville

I am in support of recycling and have been playing with it since 1975. Studies have been done but no real action taken. Landfills are accepting everything. Local municipalities and provincial governments should programme landfill sites to accept only certain items.
There has to be legislation to control beverage containers. Prince Edward Island has made a stand and we in Nova Scotia have to implement a law saying that all glass sold should be returnable.

There is a lot more than the cost of $17 per ton for tipping at landfill sites as is commonly quoted. It does not cover the cost of machinery or the land. Why is garbage the second highest cost to education costs in the municipality if it is only $17 per ton?

There are recycling markets out there that should be exploited, e.g. the bottle dealers.

Question Period

You would prefer all recycling to be handled by private operators rather than non-profit groups?

Yes, but non-profits are okay if they collect it, but there has to be someone to sell it - it is quite a complex business.

How many bottle dealers are there in Nova Scotia?

40-60.

How many are in the metal business?

Every bottle dealer is in it to some extent, for instance, batteries which they collect for larger dealers.

Do you think it would be feasible to have a plastics recycling plant here?

With proper legislation you wouldn't have so much plastic. If politics were not involved we would not be seeing the 355 ml plastic bottle coming into the market next week.

What is the biggest obstacle to the recycling business in Nova Scotia today?

Government at both provincial and municipal level have to take the blame. They are not being responsible by not evaluating the value of recycling.

Are you saying that our politicians and bureaucrats are not up to date?

It is unfortunate and not right. They do not look ahead.

If the government turned around tomorrow and banned disposables, what would the public say?

They can still use the old rag diaper.

General Comments - There was an open discussion regarding the uncontrolled dumping of garbage on roadsides and on private lands and the unhelpfulness of officials in trying to alleviate the problem.

John Thorpe, Executive Director
The Clean Nova Scotia Foundation

Copy of presentation in attached appendix.

Question Period

Would the public be involved in the negotiations between industry and government?
As a participant in the negotiations the Foundation represents a broad public membership including other voluntary and community groups.

APPENDICES

Supporting Documents

HALIFAX

Ecology Action Centre
Archie's Sackville Bottle Exchange Ltd.
Griffiths Muecke Associates
Atlantic Provinces Soft Drink Association
A.H. Leim, Halifax Adult Services Centre
Canadian Convertit Technology
The Clean Nova Scotia Foundation

ECOLOGY
ACTION
CENTRE

Roy Building
1657 Barrington Street
Suite 520
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2A1
(902) 422-4311

Introduction

Good afternoon. My name is Lois Corbett, and I'm the co-director of Ecology Action Centre. We welcome this opportunity to address the provincial taskforce on litter abatement and will use this brief to present our concerns about waste management in our province. While we welcome the establishment of the taskforce by the Nova Scotia Department of the Environment, we question the emphasis on and definition of litter in the taskforce's call for submissions. Our organization does not believe that we can address the garbage problem in this province merely by ensuring litter is tossed into cans. We feel, as the taskforce has acknowledged, that different methods of disposing of our wastes must be adopted quickly, and, in saying that, have chosen to address recycling in the main body of our brief.

Background

Ecology Action Centre was founded seventeen years ago and is incorporated as a non-profit corporation, with Registered Charity Status. The focus of the Centre's work is on local and provincial issues, with a secondary emphasis on the regional, national and international levels.

Most of EAC's funding comes through memberships, donations and fundraising. From its beginning in 1971, Ecology Action Centre has grown to its current membership of over 700 members across Nova Scotia, and has a permanent office in downtown Halifax which includes a resource library of over 6,000 titles, used frequently by students, teachers, researchers, community organizations and the media. EAC employs two full-time directors and two summer students and receives immeasurable input from twenty or more dedicated volunteers who perform tasks that range from the never-ending battle to have an updated membership list, to fundraising to help meet some of the Centre's expenses. As well, we rely on the work of Susan Hotlz, EAC's senior researcher and a member of the national Taskforce on Environment and Economy.

The Committee

One of the most active and vibrant group of volunteers at Ecology Action Centre is the recycling committee. Rejuvenated just over a year ago, the twenty member group meets once a month to discuss recycling and myriad issues that surround the basic idea -- everything from implementing office recycling projects, to legislation across Canada, to organizing workshops and conferences around the topics. In fact, we are currently planning a recycling conference for business, government, non-profit organizations and the public for November of this year. The good work the committee does hit a peak earlier this year, with the publication of a special edition of Ecology Action Centre's newsletter, *Between the Issues*. Funded in part by an Environment Week grant from the federal government, the issue is devoted entirely to recycling. Committee members not only contributed well-researched articles but also participated in the long process of planning and producing the magazine. The Centre printed 10,000 copies of the special *Between the Issues* and is pleased with the response that the edition has received.

Ecology Action Centre's Recycling Past

EAC has been active in the area of waste management throughout its history, and the overwhelmingly positive reaction to the recycling magazine is an indication, we think, of the growing concern Nova Scotians have for their environment. The Centre receives telephone inquiries each day from people concerned about environmental issues. The large majority of the callers want to know what they can do with their waste paper, glass and tin cans. They want to know how they can recycle these elements of their garbage and reduce the amount of trash they send each week to their local landfills and dumps. So common a question this is at Ecology Action Centre that the recycling brochure we produced last year never strays far from the telephone.

Some writers call this increased public interest a "revolution in recycling," and they may be right. Public interest in recycling and other environmental issues is growing across North America, and Nova Scotia is no exception. The Centre operated the "Paper Tiger" as early as 1971, a truck that picked up newspapers from several public drop-off points for recycling. In 1975, Ecology Action Centre conducted a "Bring Back the Refillable" campaign, stressing public education and lobbying the government to ban non-refillable bottles. Then, in 1980, the Centre implemented a curbside paper collection in Spryfield and Fairview, garnering a 50 per cent participation rate from residents. Last year, EAC sponsored a Household Hazardous Waste project with the financial assistance of the provincial goverment and an Environment Week,and produced an information package to help household members reduce the use of toxic materials in the home and take responsibility for the proper disposal of such products. The 1987 Environment Week grant has led, in part, to EAC's current involvement in organizing a Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Day for the metro area this October.

As you can see, Ecology Action Centre is no stranger to recycling. It is a component of our vision of a conserver society. It has played an important role in bringing people to the Centre. As well, we are currently involved in a 16 week project investigating recycling opportunities in the Halifax-Dartmouth area for the Metropolitan Authority. While it is unfortunate that the results of this project are not available in time for this presentation, the task force members can rest assured that they will be informed as to the study's results as soon as they are ready. The study promises to be the first major work on recycling in Nova Scotia and we are certain the Task Force will be interested in its outcome.

Ecology Action Centre hopes that through this study, and with the help of this Task Force, the work of the Clean Nova Scotia Foundation and the enterprising efforts of organizations like the Kingston Glass Busters, recycling will soon emerge as a social movement in our province.

How Does Nova Scotia Compare?

Nova Scotia has some catch-up work to do if we hope to match the success of recycling in other provinces, most notably Ontario, where an unlikely combination of high finance, environmental organizations and government has tackled the garbage problem and actually made some headway. Of course, Ontario had every reason to be the first province in this country to include recycling in its waste management programs; on average, every man woman and child there produces one kilogram of garbage every day, and Ontario households produce over three million tonnes of solid wastes annually.

Facing a waste management crisis of previously unimagined proportion, the government had to step in. That province's Ministry of the Environment estimates that 175 of its landfill sites will be filled by 1990, and it recognizes that approving new facilities takes, on average, five years. The crisis has forced municipalities to turn to recycling with enthusiasm. Just two years ago, there were few municipalities that provided their residents with curbside collection but by the end of this year, the ministry predicts that a million Ontarians will benefit from this service.

Nova Scotia does not yet have the landfill crisis that is currently facing Ontario and other areas across the continent -- a crisis demonstrated by overfilled sites, contaminated soil and water, and high tipping fees. That does not mean the crisis has been averted in our province. It simply has not reached the proportion of that facing outher provinces. It is in the best interests of the province to avoid the crisis by maximizing the use of our current landfill sites by promoting and supporting waste reduction and recycling.

The Four Rs

Ontario has successfully demonstrated that reduction, re-use, recycling, recovery and composting are the most desirable ways to deal with waste. We *reduce* the amount of waste products by using less raw materials and consuming fewer products. We can *re-use* products instead of throwing them away. We should *recycle* materials so they can be used again and again and, use our food, or, "wet wastes" in *compost* . We can also *recover* useful materials from a mixed or contaminated waste stream. These steps are also the most efficient; new products are often cheaper to produce from recycled material, due to the elimination of several steps in the production process, and, recycling reduces, in the long run, the quantities of wastes which require disposal.

Despite the ecological soundness of reduce, reuse, recycle, recovery and compost, they have yet to be given more then lip-service in waste management plans for Nova Scotia. Provincial governments, here and all over Atlantic Canada, plead insufficient population and amounts of waste generated as reasons why they cannot afford to recycle. But environmentalists in the region and here at home in Nova Scotia know we cannot afford *not* to recycle. There is a growing recognition that fundamental changes are necessary if we are to be part of a sustainable society. Both the World Commission on Environment and Development and the report from the National Taskforce on Environment and Economy demonstrate that sustainable economic development is central to continued economic prosperity within Canada and throughout the world. The Canadian report states that "environmental and economic planning cannot proceed in separate spheres," and, more pointedly, that long-term economic growth depends on a healthy environment. The report, submitted to the Canadian Council of Resource and Environment Ministers in 1987 defines economic development as "that which ensures that the utilization of resources and the environment today does not damage prospects for their use by future generations." It recommends that special emphasis is required in research into and promotion of waste disposal and recycling.

Just What is in Our Garbage, Anyway?

The wastes dumped everyday in Nova Scotia's landfill sites are not much different than those in other parts of the country and are composed of a few major categories of materials. Paper constitutes about one third of our garbage. Another third is made up of wet wastes, foods left over from meals, kitchen scraps, leaves and grass clippings. The remainder is mostly glass, food and beverage containers, and plastics. Beverage containers, which, in the past, have received the most attention from governments because they make up a large part of the litter strewn alongside our roads, constitute less than five per cent of residential waste, according to some studies. Packaging of all types, however, makes up more then one third of all our garbage.

Developing a Packaging Ethic

The most effective means of reducing excessive packaging is buying in bulk and reusing the containers and bottles. These are individual actions that, in order to be effective, must be spread into large sectors of our communities and supported by educational programmes. Incentives for store owners and managers will help to encourage them to reduce their packaging. Packaging ethics that encourage the reuse and recyclability of containers are needed to ensure the eventual removal of "one-night stand" packaging from the waste stream. The provincial government, through task forces such as this, public participation and research, can help develop a packaging ethic for Nova Scotia, an ethic that reflects the importance of preserving a healthy, clean and beautiful province for generations to come.

Suggestions for Change

Some examples of the components of integrated waste management include:

- providing compost bins at minimum costs to residents and conducting an education campaign on the usefulness of composting. Provide incentives for businesses to compost organic material into fertilizer on a commercial scale.
- provide the infrastructure for a curbside collection program in urban areas, develop mechanisms appropriate to smaller-sized communities in the province, so they too can recycle.
- provide incentives to existing recycling businesses to expand and incentives for new business to recycle materials.
- provide an appropriate and safe disposal mechanism for household hazardous wastes.
- encourage and integrate public participation in the decision-making process about how best to reduce wastes and establish integrated waste management plans.
- use diverted tipping fees in a recycling program to pay for further waste reduction and recycling.
- promote and legislate reduction of waste created by excess packaging -- ban the non-refillable and promote a packaging ethic for Nova Scotia.

Conclusions

Developing a waste management strategy that incorporates the importance of reduction, re-use, and recycling is the challenge that faces the members of this task force. We urge this committee to expand its own definition of litter to include not only that which is not deposited into proper receptables, but all wastes that have been dumped without thought as to the environmental degradation they cause. Garbage strewn along the roadside is not different than that dumped in landfills -- it is part of the same problem and eventually it all finds its way into our soil or water. Litter abatement is only one step in the complicated process of effective waste management. Municipalities, most often charged with the responsibility of dealing with their residents' garbage and sewage, have to take an active role in recycling and be given both incentives and support in pursuing alternatives in waste disposal. The manufacturing sector also needs to become involved in promoting and helping to pay for recycling. And, when given the opportunity, the public will support the idea if enough resources are committed to public education about the objectives and benefits of recycling.

And the benefits are many. With more incentives to use refillable bottles and other reusable containers, less will appear in our public parks, beaches and highways. We will use less of our natural resources and less energy. We will be presented with new and innovative business and employment opportunities in a province that dearly needs more jobs. An integrated approach to waste management will provide new opportunities for community economic development as well as protect our environment. Although there may appear to be significant costs associated with an integrated waste management program for Nova Scotia, they are costs that cannot be deflected, and are, in fact, similar to the amount we spend already on landfill site and garbage collection. The costs can be avoided, but the consequences of not implementing a comprehensive waste management strategy are high -- we cannot postpone protecting our environment. We are, quite simply, a part of the environment of this province, and we must work now to develop long-term strategies to provide a sustainable future for our children.

July, 1988

Archie's Sackville Bottle Exchange Ltd.

We at Archie's buy beer and pop bottles that are refillable and sort these bottles, store them, then ship them to the beverage companies for refilling. This occupies most of our manpower and time as we handle over 25 million bottles per year.

If the Beverage Container Act were to be rewritten, an Act similar to that of Prince Edward Island is favoured. In Prince Edward Island you cannot buy a beverage unless it is in a refillable container with a deposit on it. This eliminates much of the litter now in Nova Scotia, such as, plastic soft drink, aluminum cans, both soft drink and beer and all non-returnable glass bottles. With this legislation the present system of bottle return can be used without modification. Also more jobs will be created BUT the beverage companies will have to PAY MORE.

My SECOND CHOICE would be a system of all containers for beverages would have a deposit. Small beverage containers like soft drink 300ml, aluminum cans 300ml and beer bottles 300 ml - a deposit of 25 cents per container. Large containers/liter or more 40 cents per container.

If a large enough deposit is put on containers they will not become litter but will be returned for money.

If this were done, an appropriate handling fee should be set up by government for dealers and retailers of these products. Handling fees should be paid by the beverage companies. Also appropriate freight should be paid or a pick up system devised.

As an INTERIM MEASURE enforce immediately the present Beverage Container Act especially Section II, Number 8.

I would like to see some government initiative started from this Task Force, especially the N.S.L.C in their cold beer stores by reversing the situation in cold beer coolers.

I recommend that all non-refillable containers presently in cold beer store coolers be removed and replaced by ONLY refillable, returnable containers. Then our government would be promoting a clean Nova Scotia by encouraging use of returnable containers for alcoholic beverages instead of promotion of non-refillable litter. Moosehead Breweries now do this with returnable bottles.

RECYCLING

At Archie's we recycle as well as sort beverage containers.

Recyclable materials handled: newspapers and telephone books, cardboard, old beverage containers and household glass, copper, brass, aluminum cans and other aluminum products, lead and old batteries, deer hides in season.

If people and industry were forced and encouraged to recycle paper and cardboard I would hire 10-15 more people to bale and collect paper and cardboard. This would reduce our 52% paper and cardboard content in our landfill site in Sackville.

1. Encourage industry to recycle by charging $15-25 per ton to dump recyclables - like cardboard.
2. Encourage Archie's to recycle more by saving Archie's a fee of $15-$25 for every ton Archie's recycles. Local municipality should pay these fees.
3. Low interest or no interest loans to purchase equipment and warehouse. Possibly rent subsidies for warehouse space.

ALL SUBSIDIES SHOULD BE OFFERED TO PEOPLE PRESENTLY RECYCLING.

All members of the Task Force are invited and encouraged to tour our facilities at 15 Sackville Cross Road in Lower Sackville.

Brad O'Connell
Archie's Sackville Bottle Exchange
865-9010
865-9321

NOVA SCOTIA MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT'S TASK FORCE ON LITTER ABATEMENT

Submission made by Lesley Griffiths
Griffiths Muecke Associates

July 28,1988

A. Introduction

Thank you for this opportunity to address the Task Force. My partner, Anne Muecke, and I are environmental planners with a particular interest in public participation, community development, and waste management.

We formed our firm, Griffiths Muecke, in 1980, and have been involved in a wide variety of projects. We have done work for Environment Canada on hazardous waste management. We are currently carrying out a study of recycling opportunities for the Metropolitan Authority in collaboration with the Ecology Action Centre (EAC), and are also involved in the preparation of a major waste management strategy in New Brunswick. I was a member of the Dartmouth Task Force on Recycling, and I am also helping to organize Metro's first Household Hazardous Waste Day in October.

B. Metropolitan Authority Study

The purpose of our study for the Metropolitan Authority is to identify factors which either encourage or impede the development of recycling; to estimate the types and quantities of recoverable wastes in as much detail as possible; to investigate existing and potential markets; and to recommend a recycling strategy for the Metro area. The final report will be completed in October and we are planning to hold a workshop to make the results more widely available.

C. This Submission

In order not to pre-empt the findings of the study, in this submission we address some -- and certainly not all -- of the basic principles which the provincial government should consider. We also make ten suggestions for practical action by the Province. I must emphasize that all opinions in this submission are our own, and are in no way intended to represent the position of the Metropolitan Authority.

I propose to talk about recycling, not litter abatement. There is a connection between the two, but it is not a strong one. The best recycling program in the world may not do much to reduce litter in the streets; and concern for litter abatement alone will not ensure an effective recycling program. To a certain extent I believe that linking the two in the mandate of this Task Force may be confusing to the public. On the other hand, I appreciate the fact that the Task Force is giving the public an opportunity to demonstrate their interest in and commitment to recycling as one of the keystones of sustainable development.

D. Basic Principles

We are in the middle of a dramatic surge of interest and activity in recycling. There was a similar surge in the 1970's. At that time the underlying belief was that recycling could and should pay its own way, while the public sector would pick up the tab for the other forms of waste disposal. When the markets dipped, most of the recycling operations -- many of them run by highly committed volunteers -- went out of business.

In the 1980's a new concept has evolved for the role of recycling. This concept includes the following six principles:

> A broader scope and responsibility for waste management
> Waste management is now mostly a municipal responsibility, basically encompassing the collection, burying or burning of whatever anyone throws out. If recycling is simply tacked on to this concept of waste management, its significance may be limited in the face of burgeoning waste generation rates. For example, the Solid Waste Blueprint prepared for the Metropolitan Authority (Porter Dillon, 1987) predicted an annual increase in the per capita waste generation rate of between 3 and 4 percent. Preliminary estimates suggest in fact the increase has been greater than that in some of the local municipalities.
>
> Waste management must be concerned with waste generation (types, quantities and sources) as well as waste disposal. This means that the municipalities should not be left (literally) holding the bag. This concept of waste management involves us all -- the three levels of government, the private sector, and the individual household.
>
> "Cradle to grave" management
> This is a familiar concept for the managers of hazardous wastes. Essentially it means that considerations of how a product will ultimately be disposed (including reuse or recycling) must be built into its design and manufacture. This is particularly important for packaging, which now makes up about 30 percent of our garbage. The tools that can be used include incentives, design awards, guidelines, taxes, and outright bans. One example is the recent announcement by Environment Canada

that they are introducing an Environmentally Friendly Goods Campaign. The important point is that manufacturers must take on some of the responsibility for the eventual fate of their product.

Clearly, the federal government has an important role to play in this area, but provincial governments also need to get involved. Quebec, for example, is preparing detailed packaging guidelines. South of the border, there is a positive stampede of packaging bills being introduced by individual states, and some of the most dramatic action has been taken at the municipal level by Suffolk County, NY ("Plastics and other packaging under attack" in *Waste Age*, July 1988)

The user-pay principle

If there is no direct connection between the waste generator and the cost of disposing of the waste, there is diminished incentive to reduce or recycle waste. If the owners of a large department store are having to pay a tipping fee for every ton of garbage they send to the landfill site, there will be more incentive for them to separate and bale their corrugated cardboard.

Applying the user-pay principle to households may be more difficult, although other jurisdictions do use various forms of metering (for example, households may contract to have only a certain number of containers picked up, or special garbage bags sold with a surcharge must be used). At very least there should be feedback in some form or other on the fact that garbage collection and disposal costs are related to the volume generated.

A level economic playing field

Recycling will not reach its full potential until the economic playing field has been levelled. This means two things: (a)the costs of alternate means of disposal (primarily landfill sites) must be fully calculated including replacement costs and social costs, and (b)recyclable goods and materials should not face unfair competition from virgin materials in the form of inequitable taxes or subsidies.

As an example of the first, the current disposal cost of $17.40 per ton (1988 estimate) levied by the Metropolitan Authority does not include the original development of the site which was subsidized by federal and provincial funds. As an example of the second, no paper mill will have much incentive to install de-inking facilities while they are assured of a cheap source of virgin fibre from bargain Crown land leases.

A broader scope for recycling

For many people recycling is synonymous with collecting newspapers, bottles and cans through depots or at the curbside, and this is certainly a great way to start. But recycling must move on to other types of materials (particularly food and yard wastes) and other sources of waste (apartment and office buildings, industry and institutions). In the City of Halifax, for example, less than a quarter of the garbage which goes to the landfill site has been picked up by the municipal collection service, so more than just a curbside recycling program will be needed.

Demand management for recycled materials

This is an important element in an overall recycling strategy. Supply is bound to increase, and attention needs to be paid to increasing demand to match it. This means not only looking for new markets, but also researching and developing new products and uses. It means educating consumers to the benefits of buying products made from recycled materials, and using government purchasing power to increase the use of such products.

E. Ten Suggestions

These suggestions are in no way intended to be comprehensive, but are made in the hope that they will be of some assistance to the Task Force in its deliberations.

1. The Province should establish an inter-departmental group to develop provincial waste management policy through the Deputy Ministers Land Use Policy Committee.

2. The Province should continue to consult with all interested parties: the municipalities, the private sector, environmental organizations, community groups, the recycling industry, labour.

3. The Province should investigate how best to institute a user-pay policy for waste management throughout Nova Scotia.

4. The Province should appoint a provincial recycling co-ordinator within the Department of Environment to provide technical assistance particularly to municipalities.

5. The Department of Environment, in consultation with interested parties, should develop an assistance program to support recycling.

6. The Department of Industry, Trade and Technology should investigate opportunities for regional processing and marketing of recyclable materials, and opportunities for new market and product development.

7. The Province should conduct its own waste audit to identify opportunities to reduce and recycle waste within provincial departments.

8. The Province should also encourage industry, business, and institutions to conduct their own waste audits, and should provide them with technical assistance.

9. The Province should develop a procurement policy favouring the purchase of goods made with recycled materials.

10. The Province should participate with the Federal Government and the other provinces in initiatives to reduce waste and improve product design and recyclability through the Canadian Council of Resource and Environment Ministers (CCREM) and through the Round Tables on Environment and Economy.

F. Postscript

This submission has not been printed on recycled paper I regret to say. Although some of the brands available from local paper houses may at times contain recycled fibres, none of them guarantee a consistent percentage or advertise their content. I have, however, been assured that "if the demand is out there" the paper houses will start carrying recycled fibre brands such as Fracopy.

ATLANTIC PROVINCES SOFT DRINK ASSOCIATION

July 29, 1988

SUBMISSION TO THE MINISTER'S TASK FORCE ON LITTER ABATEMENT

The following are considerations and recommendations to be directed to the Minister, Nova Scotia Department of the Environment on behalf of the Atlantic Provinces Soft Drink Association and its Nova Scotia Bottlers, namely:

Astoria Beverage Co. Ltd.
Liverpool, N. S.

Cape Breton Beverages
Sydney, N. S.

Chapman Brothers Ltd.
Amherst, N. S.

Isle Royale Beverages
Sydney, N. S.

Maritime Beverages Limited
Dartmouth, N. S.

Maritime Beverages Limited
New Glasgow, N. S.

Jones Bottling Ltd.
Weymouth, N. S.

T.C.C. Bottling Ltd.
The Coca-Cola Bottling System of Canada
Halifax, N. S.

OVERVIEW:

The N. S. soft-drink industry has continuously maintained a high degree of interest and sincerity in fully co-operating with the Government and specifically the Environment Department in meeting the ongoing environmental litter problems as far back as year 1973.

Over the last ten years, the industry has spent approximately 7 million dollars to comply with the existing Beverage Container Act which was proclaimed on March 1, 1978. I trust you can appreciate the significance of this investment given the size of our industry within the Province.

Since 1985, this Association has been meeting with the department of the Environment, namely Mr. D. Ryan, with a view to developing and sharing of the N. S. Government's litter abatement objectives. Two separate proposals were made in year 1986 specifically directed at the revision of the current beverage container legislation.

Since November, 1986, this Association has been meeting and contributed a significant amount of time and effort towards the development of The Clean Nova Scotia Foundation, culminating with one of its members currently being appointed its Vice Chairman.

As exemplified by the above, our Association continues to have strong moral convictions towards helping this Government achieve its goal of bringing litter under control even though all of its non-refillable soft drink containers represent only 2.4% in the municipal waste stream.

As part of industry within the province, we presently are most concerned with the prospects and potential of negative legislation - directed at non-refillable packaging under the existing Beverage Container Act. The Act, in its present form, is somewhat discriminatory in terms of other packaging/containers currently available within the environment. It is the opinion of this Association that should Government proceed to amend this act with a view to legislation that same be renamed: "Container/Packaging Act". This way, all contributors to litter can be made to fulfill their responsibility in terms of litter abatement.

In summation of the preceding, we would direct all members of this task force to broaden their scope of focus upon examining the attached photograph which serves to exemplify the current components of litter which affect our everyday environment.

EXISTING LITTER LEGISLATION:

The Association strongly recommends that all Acts involved be revised and made to be enforced, through penalty, at whatever the costs.

Litter, a highly visible impairment to all our various environments, should be considered deplorable as well as socially unacceptable to all who live in or frequent the Province of Nova Scotia. The discarding of litter is of major concern. Disposal methods/facilities, in whatever form, must be made conveniently accessible in all areas of the Province in order to promote optimum co-operation by its citizens towards this end.

EXISTING CONTAINER LEGISLATION:

The Association contends that this Act in its present form does not address the current environmental concerns of Nova Scotians in relation to litter. Also, it does not allow for the ever-changing environment around us which is, and will continue to be, affected by the new and improved packaging/containers which are constantly being developed to contain consumable goods.

Focus on beverage containers is very restrictive within the current Act. It must be expanded upon in order to address current and future packaging trends. The Act should incorporate built-in flexibility in order to effectively deal with the ever-expanding, ongoing environmental container/packaging issues.

The Association strongly recommends revision of the current Act from Beverage Containers Act to "Container/ Packaging Act".

PROPOSED REVISION TO ACT:

The revised Act to focus on key environmental issues, placing emphasis on the management of solid waste in order to produce a mandate on litter control and multi-material recycling.

The revised Act to ensure the inclusion of all packaging/container manufactures, retailers, wholesalers, food service industries, brewers/distillers, dairy/fruit juice producers, governments, and all other associations or groups directly or indirectly involved in the controlling of all disposable litter within the Provincial environment.

With the co-operation of the above groups, the revised Act to be structured so as to ensure that an independant organization such as the Clean Nova Scotia Foundation be mandated to carry out the short and long-term goals and deadlines of the Nova Scotia Government as relates to litter abatement and solid waste control.

The Association firmly believes that once the above be adopted, all groups within the applicable sectors would make voluntary financial contribution and a commitment to work toward achieving the environmental goals set by the Government accordingly.

EDUCATION/PROMOTION:

The undertaking of a comprehensive educational and promotional P R campaign developed through The Clean Nova Scotia Foundation, to be directed at all areas within the Province affected by litter. Also, to generate, through such a program, a conserver ethic by all Nova Scotia citizens at home, work, or play. To ensure ongoing support of existing conserver groups which have an anti-litter program (Woodsy Owl) and further the enlistment of local organizations (i.e. APSDA) through both incentive and direction. The task of education and promotion development is very vital and will only be successful when all key resources (people & funding) are in place. Two good examples of a solid effort are "safe grad" as well as "drinking and driving" campaigns. LITTERING MUST BECOME SOCIALLY UNACCEPTABLE.

RECYCLING MULTI MATERIAL:

The key environmental issue in North America today is management of solid-waste materials through multi-material recycling.

It is the recommendation of the Atlantic Provinces Soft Drink Association that government and industry, through the Clean Nova Scotia Foundation, explore in depth the merits of source recovery of all recyclable materials by voluntary means. The CNSF Recycling Committee mandate to quickly develop/build an "alliance for recycling" in Nova Scotia to support a 5-year program. This alliance to include retail/whlsle industry, other packaging interests, small truck and scrap/bottle dealers, non-profit organizations, and all the various levels of government.

This committee to also work with industry and government to secure the voluntary financial contributions to develop a long-term recycling program directed at solid waste stream. It must also recognize/emphasize that at this time the small role soft drink containers have in the waste stream (2.4%) as compared to all the other environmental challenges facing the government.

As one of Nova Scotia's main-stay industries, as exemplified by our previous relationships with Government, we have always been committed to voluntarily offer assistance in the developing of a comprehensive plan directed at litter control and disposal.

CONCLUSION:

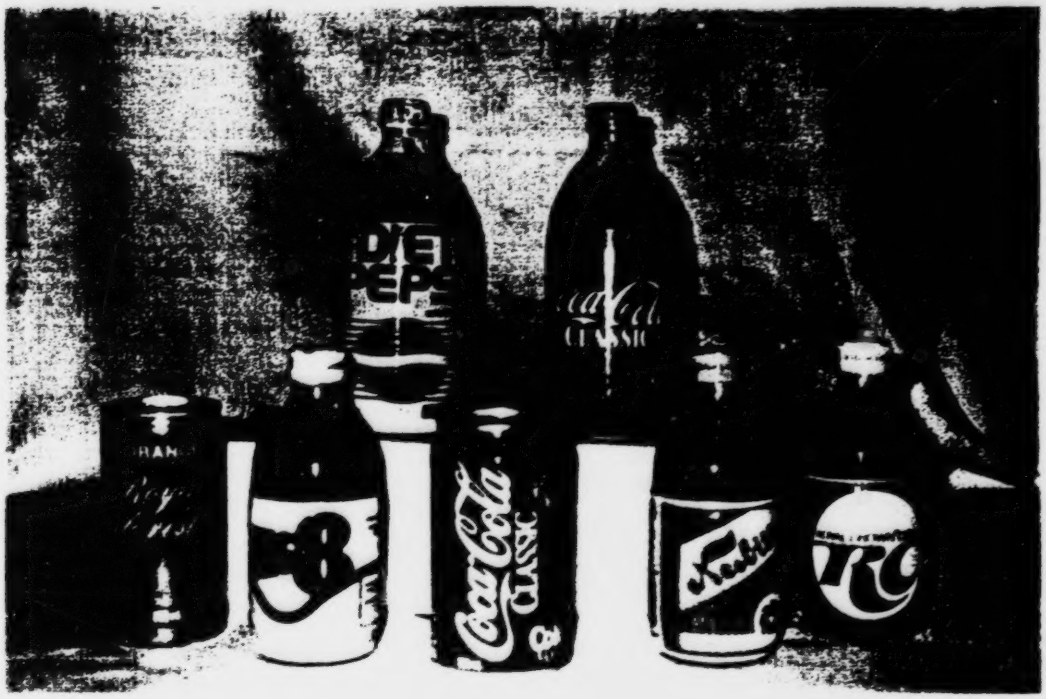
The Atlantic Provinces Soft Drink Association commends the Government through the Task Force and The Clean Nova Scotia Foundation for allowing our industry to provide its input to the discussion/issues paper on litter abatement and further encourages that the initial spirit of co-operative and voluntary relationships between all concerned parties in this endeavour be maintained so that the Province of Nova Scotia becomes a role model in the control and disposal of all litter and waste. It should be noted that all components of litter/solid waste must be addressed to make this extensive program worthwhile.

Respectfully submitted by

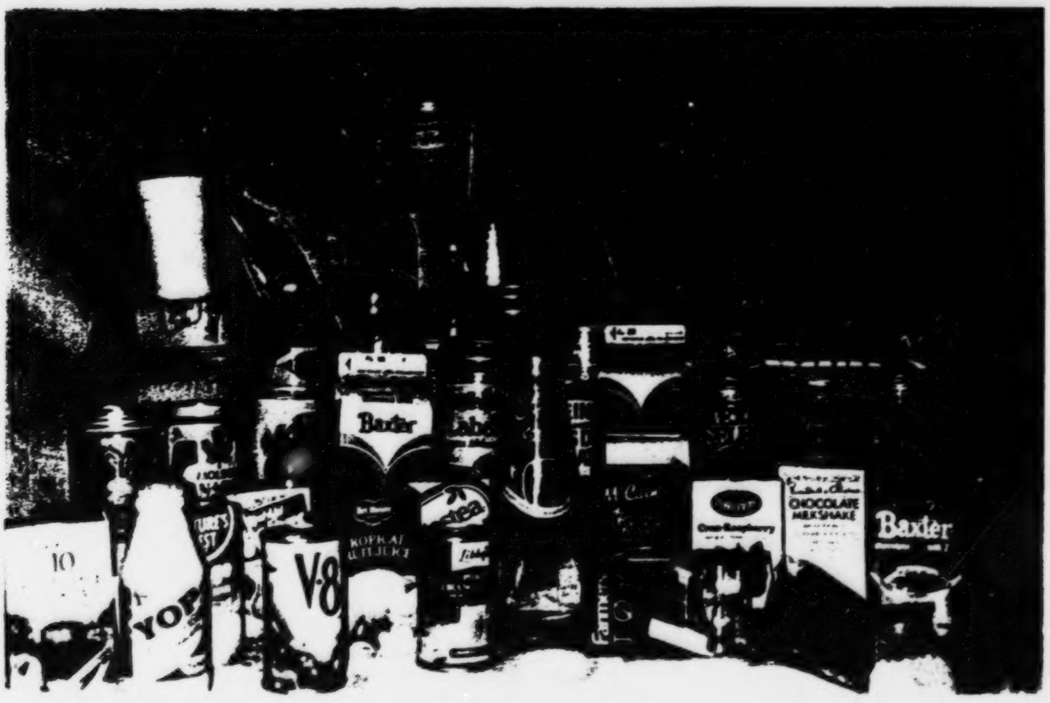
J. R. Lavergne

J. R. Lavergne
Director, Atlantic Provinces Soft Drink Association
Director, Canadian Soft Drink Association

A. Packages Covered By Beverage Container Act (500 ml or less)


DIET PEPSI
Coca-Cola CLASSIC
Coca-Cola CLASSIC
RC

B. Partial Package Presentation Products Not Covered By Beverage Container Act


Baxter
V-8
Baxter
CHOCOLATE MILKSHAKE
Cran-Raspberry

ORAL SUBMISSION BY A.H. LEIM, HALIFAX ADULT SERVICES CENTRE, PREPARED FOR PRESENTATION TO THE TASK FORCE ON LITTER ABATEMENT, July 28, 1988:

MADAME CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE:

I COME BEFORE THIS TASK FORCE HAVING JUST COMPLETED A SIX-MONTH STINT AS CHAIR OF ANOTHER SUCH GROUP: THE TASK FORCE ON PRODUCT DIFFERENTIATION AND MARKETING APPOINTED BY A COMMITTEE OF THE WORKSHOP COUNCIL OF NOVA SCOTIA, A GROUP WHICH REPRESENTS 28 SHELTERED WORKSHOPS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE. MOST OF THESE FACILITIES OPERATE AS VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED ADULTS, ALTHOUGH THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED AND PERSONS WHO HAVE STRUGGLED WITH MENTAL ILLNESS ARE THE PARTICULAR CONCERNS OF A FEW OF THESE WORKSHOPS.

AS A MATTER OF FACT I ONLY HEARD OF THIS TASK FORCE AT ONE OF THE LATER MEETINGS OF OUR OWN GROUP, WHERE DISCUSSION OF OUR WORKSHOPS' POTENTIAL INVOLVEMENT IN COLLECTION AND PROCESSING OF MATERIALS FOR RECYCLING WAS TAKING PLACE. I UNDERSTAND THAT SEVERAL OF MY ERTSWHILE COLLEAGUES HAVE SUBMITTED OR INTEND TO SUBMIT THEIR OWN POINTS OF VIEW ON THESE MATTERS TO THE TASK FORCE ON LITTER ABATEMENT.

I SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT I DO NOT OFFICIALLY REPRESENT ANY PARTICULAR WORKSHOP OR THE WORKSHOP COUNCIL HERE TODAY. I SIMPLY FELT THAT THE OPPORTUNITY SHOULD NOT BE MISSED TO SHOW HOW A NETWORK OF FACILITIES SUCH AS OURS MIGHT SERVE TO FURTHER THE OBJECTIVES OF ENFORCED CONSERVATION AND A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT.

TO ILLUSTRATE THE POINT I AM TRYING TO MAKE I WISH TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION FIRST TO THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE SASKATCHEWAN ASSOCIATION OF REHABILITATION CENTERS (OR SARC) IN ALUMINUM CAN COLLECTION AND RECYCLING.

.../2

SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF ALUMINUM SOFT DRINK AND BEER CANS INTO SASKATCHEWAN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MAY OF THIS YEAR, THAT PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HAS COLLECTED A REFUNDABLE 5¢ PER CAN DEPOSIT AND A 2¢ PER CAN "ENVIRONMENTAL HANDLING CHARGE" ON EACH CAN DISTRIBUTED WITHIN THE PROVINCE.

THE 2¢ HANDLING CHARGE FUNDS A PROVINCE-WIDE CAN COLLECTION AND RECYCLING SYSTEM WHICH UTILIZES SARC'S EXISTING NETWORK OF 32 SHELTERED WORKSHOPS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE. A CONTRACT BETWEEN SARC AND THE SASKATCHEWAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY IS EXPECTED TO CREATE MINIMUM-WAGE PLUS JOBS FOR AS MANY AS 150 HANDICAPPED PEOPLE PRESENTLY TRAINING WITHIN THESE WORKSHOPS.

IN PHASE I WHICH IS WELL UNDERWAY, 90 SUCH JOBS HAVE ALREADY BEEN CREATED, ACCORDING TO SARC'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WAYNE ZIMMER. PHASE II, TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE END OF THIS SEPTEMBER, WILL SEE CREATION OF 11 ADDITIONAL COLLECTION DEPOTS TO MAKE THE SYSTEM ACCESSIBLE TO ALL RESIDENTS OF SASKATCHEWAN.

HERE IS HOW THE SYSTEM ACTUALLY WORKS: A CONSUMER BRINGS IN RINSED-OUT ALUMINUM CANS, AND RECEIVES HIS 5¢ PER CAN REFUND. THE CANS ARE COUNTED, PLACED IN BAGS OR FLATS, AND FED INTO THE HOPPER OF A DENSIFIER WHICH SEPARATES THE ALUMINUM FROM OTHER METALS AND COMPACTS EACH LOT OF APPROXIMATELY 400 CANS INTO AN 18LB. BALE. THE BALES ARE THEN LOADED ONTO PALLETS AND STORED FOR SHIPMENT BY RAIL TO A SMELTER IN THE UNITED STATES.

IN SOME FACILITIES WHERE THE TRAFFIC IN USED CANS IS RELATIVELY LIGHT THE CANS WILL BE FLATTENED MANUALLY BEFORE BEING SHIPPED TO THE NEAREST WORKSHOP WHERE A DENSIFIER IS OPERATED.

BY NOVEMBER OF THIS YEAR IT IS EXPECTED THAT COLLECTION AND PROCESSING OF PLASTIC BOTTLES WILL BEGIN AS WELL.

THE ESTIMATED COST TO SET UP THESE PROGRAMS USING SARC'S EXISTING FACILITIES IS $2½ MILLION. FOR THIS INVESTMENT THE PROVINCE

GETS A READY-MADE COLLECTION AND PROCESSING NETWORK AND AT THE SAME TIME CREATES BASIC EMPLOYMENT FOR A LARGE NUMBER OF HANDICAPPED CITIZENS.

THE OTHER EXAMPLE TO WHICH I WOULD LIKE TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION IS ALSO SASKATCHEWAN-BASED, AND CONCERNS A SUCCESSFUL PAPER RECYCLING PROGRAM THAT HAS BEEN RUN BY COSMOPOLITAN INDUSTRIES LTD. OF SASKATOON FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS.

COSMOPOLITAN INDUSTRIES IS A LARGE SO-CALLED ACTIVITY CENTER WHERE HANDICAPPED WORKERS HANDLE A NUMBER OF TRADITIONAL SHELTERED WORKSHOP JOBS LIKE MAIL PREPARATION AND PACKAGING SERVICES.

THEIR WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM UTILIZES THE SERVICES OF 53 HANDICAPPED PERSONS, INCLUDING 10 OF THE MOST SEVERELY HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS, WHO ALTOGETHER HANDLE BETWEEN 25 AND 40% OF ALL THE PAPER AND CARDBOARD DISCARDED IN SASKATOON. THE WORK CHIEFLY INVOLVES THE COLLECTION OF VOLUNTARILY PLACED PAPER FROM 180 METAL BINS LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE CITY (THEY EMPLOY 5 USED GARBAGE TRUCKS PURCHASED FOR ONE DOLLAR EACH FROM THE CITY), SORTING, BALING, AND OPERATING A CONFIDENTIAL SHREDDING SERVICE USED BY LOCAL BANKS, TRUST COMPANIES, LAWYERS, DOCTORS, AND ACCOUNTANTS. THIS PROGRAM IS ESTIMATED TO SAVE MUNICIPAL COLLECTION AND LANDFILL COSTS OF $¼ MILLION PER YEAR, AND BRINGS ANOTHER $¼ MILLION IN REVENUE INTO COSMOPOLITAN INDUSTRIES ITSELF. THE BALED NEWSPRINT IS SOLD TO SEVERAL SASKATCHEWAN AND ALBERTA COMPANIES FOR RECYCLING INTO EGG FLATS AND INSULATION; CARDBOARD IS SHIPPED TO A PLANT IN BRITISH COLUMBIA FOR REPROCESSING.

THE EXAMPLES I HAVE MENTIONED DEMONSTRATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF A NETWORK OF SHELTERED WORKSHOPS IN CARRYING OUT CONSERVATION-MINDED PROCEDURES IN AN AREA DEMOGRAPHICALLY NOT UNLIKE OUR OWN PROVINCE, COMPRISING A COUPLE OF RELATIVELY SMALL CITIES, MANY TOWNS, AND A LARGE RURAL POPULATION. THE TOTAL NUMBER AND DISTRIBUTION

OF WORKSHOP FACILITIES WITHIN NOVA SCOTIA ALSO APPROXIMATES THE SASKATCHEWAN SITUATION.

I THINK THAT THE OPPORTUNITY TO USE A NETWORK WHICH IS ALREADY IN PLACE TO BEGIN TO SALVAGE WASTE MATERIAL, WHILE PROVIDING MUCH-NEEDED EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE FOR GOODLY NUMBERS OF HANDICAPPED WORKERS, DESERVES THE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF THIS TASK FORCE. FAR FROM BEING A DEMEANING ENDEAVOR, I BELIEVE THAT THE ASSOCIATION OF OUR WORKSHOPS WITH AN ENTERPRISE AS UNIVERSALLY NOBLE AS CLEANING UP THE ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION COULD BE A VERY POSITIVE ONE FOR EVERYONE CONCERNED, WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR CARRYING OUT MORE EFFICIENT AND SOPHISTICATED PROCEDURES OPENING UP AS SALVAGE TECHNOLOGY ADVANCES.

I WOULD LIKE TO CLOSE MY PRESENTATION WITH A SMALL PERSONAL OBSERVATION, DOUBTLESS ONE THAT YOU HAVE HEARD BEFORE. EVERY DAY I SEE PEOPLE, BOTH YOUNG AND OLD, DISCARDING CANDY WRAPPERS, CIGARETTE PACKAGES, AND FAST-FOOD CONTAINERS ON SIDEWALKS AND ROADWAYS. THE SIGHT OF ALL THIS THOUGHTLESSNESS DISTRESSES ME TO NO END, AND YET I CANNOT HELP REFLECTING ON THE TIME WHEN, AS A YOUNG BOY, I THOUGHT IT MESSIER TO HAVE A USED PIECE OF PAPER ON MY PERSON THAN DROPPED INTO A DITCH BESIDE THE ROAD. MY PARENTS WERE NOT HESITANT IN SHOWING ME THE ERROR OF MY WAYS, WITH THE RESULT THAT SAVING DISCARDED WRAPPERS, KLEENEX, ETC. UNTIL I GOT HOME BECAME A STEADY HABIT.

WITH ALL THE RESOURCES THAT OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA HAVE AT THEIR DISPOSAL, ACCENTUATION OF THE POSITIVE VIRTUES OF TIDINESS AND CONSERVATION AND THE NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF LITTERING TO TODAY'S YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BE A DIFFICULT TASK. WHEN CHILDREN CAN BE LEAD TO FORM RESPONSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL HABITS I THINK THAT "THE CHILD WILL BE THE FATHER TO THE MAN", AND THE POPULATION AS A WHOLE WILL SOON COME TO VIEW LITTERING

.../5

AS THE CONSEQUENCE OF A DESPICABLY ANTI-SOCIAL AND ANTIQUATED FORM OF BEHAVIOUR.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO AIR MY VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT OF LITTER ABATEMENT.

Presentation to Minister's Task Force on Litter Abatement

Halifax, Nova Scotia, July, 1988

Presenter: David Jonah, President

Canadian Convertit Technology

Enriched Environment Through Controlled Waste Management

85 Gordon St.
Moncton, N.B.
E1C 1M3
(506) 859-7580

The Business Opportunity in Garbage

The Problem

The Canadian municipal waste stream is growing in volume, the burning and burying option is not working for municipalities for environmental reasons.

Previous solutions have focused on re-cycling components of the waste stream for revenue recovery with little sustained success, because it is labour intensive and requires a change in behaviour on the part of the consumer. Consumers traditionally lack the discipline to perform consistently and further lack any interest in commitment to re-cycling, or in changing their domestic habits. Traditional re-cycling methods require intensive adult re-education and behaviour re-inforcement.

Even though the compost process has been around since the world began,-the forest is a giant compost process,- and the necessary equipment for breaking down the waste stream is all available off - the - shelf; it is the unique engineering approach of the Howard Burr system which makes the difference in producing within a 21 day processing time, a composted - soil - from - garbage waste for retail sale.

Previous Approaches to the problem

The attractiveness of recapturing costs from the sale of electrical generation from incineration, low landfill costs and an absence of public awareness to air and soil pollution have previously blunted the growth of the Convertit Process, since its invention in the early fifties. All of these former conditions have changed, or been reversed, to now propel the natural Convertit Process approach into popular choice by municipalities.

Previous natural approaches have focused on costly pick and sort practices and have included;

1. the composting of sewage sludge, made difficult because the natural cooking heat for composting has to be re-introduced,

2. sortation of the garbage waste stream, for re-cycling recovery purposes has been experimented with

3. and composting of only the wet garbage component of the waste stream which only accounts for less that fifty percent of the total supply.

However, the Convertit Process differs from previous approaches in that it accepts all of the waste stream for decomposing and offers a complete 100 percent solution to the municipal garbage problem. Convertit is the only system to combine all elements of the waste stream successfully under controlled conditions, without costly sortation and creates a saleable end product as a result.

Garbage Disposal: Costly to the Tax payer

PREVIOUS WASTE SOLUTIONS HAVE BEEN COSTLY TO TAXPAYERS

Incineration plants are costly to build, to operate properly, and have a proven track record for pollution. Incineration results in an ash residue for expensive land filling which has to be contained properly. No one wants a landfill in their community, or near their personal real estate holdings.

Landfill operating costs and other methods are all within the cost structure of the tipping fee for the Convertit Process. The tipping fee covers operating costs, capital construction costs, and the cost of financing. In addition, revenue is received from the sale of the end product and usually accounts for less than 15 per cent of the total revenue flow. An on-going royalty position is set up for the investors and when the proper debt-to-equity is achieved a royalty sharing commission is paid back to the municipality.

The Opportunity in the Convertit Process

The unique qualities of the Convertit Process make it the ultimate solution available for solving the problem of municipal garbage waste streams.

The key to the economic formula is the tipping fee. Once it is established by negotiation with the municipal supplier, then the rate of return and equity intervention can be assessed.

Current landfill sites are costing municipalities a minimum of $40.00 per ton tipping fee and incinerators are often double that amount and require huge capitalization to make environmentally safe. As land fill sites fill up the cost of the next location is often double the previous tipping fee.

Plants employing the Convertit Process technology offer municipalities effective cost control, a permanent safe solution combined with a potential to generate royalty revenue, and are attractive to private finance funders for investor equity and long term financing packages.

PLANTS ARE ONE OF A KIND

Convertit plants are one of a kind and are not easily duplicated.

The sale of the end product is a surplus revenue and the retail price can be adjusted to insure retail sales success by underpricing other forms of soil additives and fertilizers. There is also a considerable off-shore market to be exploited where soils are weak in growing ingredients or topsoil.

Canadian Convertit Technology is introducing this technology to Canada through the construction of waste processing plants and will provide a solid return on investment opportunity for the creative investor/funder.

The Convertit Technology Manufacturing Process

Turning Garbage Into Gold

The Convertit Process accepts all garbage collected from domestic sources and can handle even the largest objects once they are reduced in size for processing.

As the attached diagram shows the Convertit method masticates the waste stream into a slurry of small particles that are treated with a biological inoculant.

The only unacceptable waste is that which is toxic and not part of domestic waste disposal because it is an industrial waste problem.

Raw Waste Handling and Shredding

As collection or waste-transfer vehicles enter the plant site, they are weighed and the net weight of their contents recorded. The waste is then received on a tipping floor, sorted for bulky and hazardous materials, then fed by conveyor to two specially designed hammermills (shredders) in series. The first reduces the material to a coarse size, while the second hammermill reduces the material even further to the size found to be most efficient for the biological breakdown of the various types of waste.

How Waste Composting Works

The shredded waste is sprayed with a special bacterial inoculant to hasten the composting process. The waste then goes to the composting area where it is piled in "windrows" in a closed building on a concrete floor. There, through careful control of temperature and moisture, the waste is biologically broken down in about 21 days. The bacterial action is aerobic (with oxygen present), which prevents the formation of odorous gases. It also generates temperatures in the composting piles of approximately 170° F–high enough to destroy pathogenic bacteria.

The windrows are turned periodically during the composting process. The exact timing of the windrow turning is determined by the measurement of heat and mositure in the piles. Water is added during the turning process to adjust the moisture level, and oxygen is replenished as the turning aerates the decomposing waste. The only "odor" from the compost piles is the smell of damp, fresh earth.

Samples from each pile are tested in a laboratory at the plant to be sure they do not contain unacceptable levels of any pollutant or any element potentially harmful to plant growth. If a compost pile is found to contain too much of some undesirable element, that pile is simply mixed with another pile. This blending of one pile with another can be done several times if necessary until the undesirable element is so widely distributed that its level in the finished product is well within acceptable limits. If, on very rare occasions, a pile is found to contain a very high level of some undesirable element, that pile would be removed and disposed of by other means.

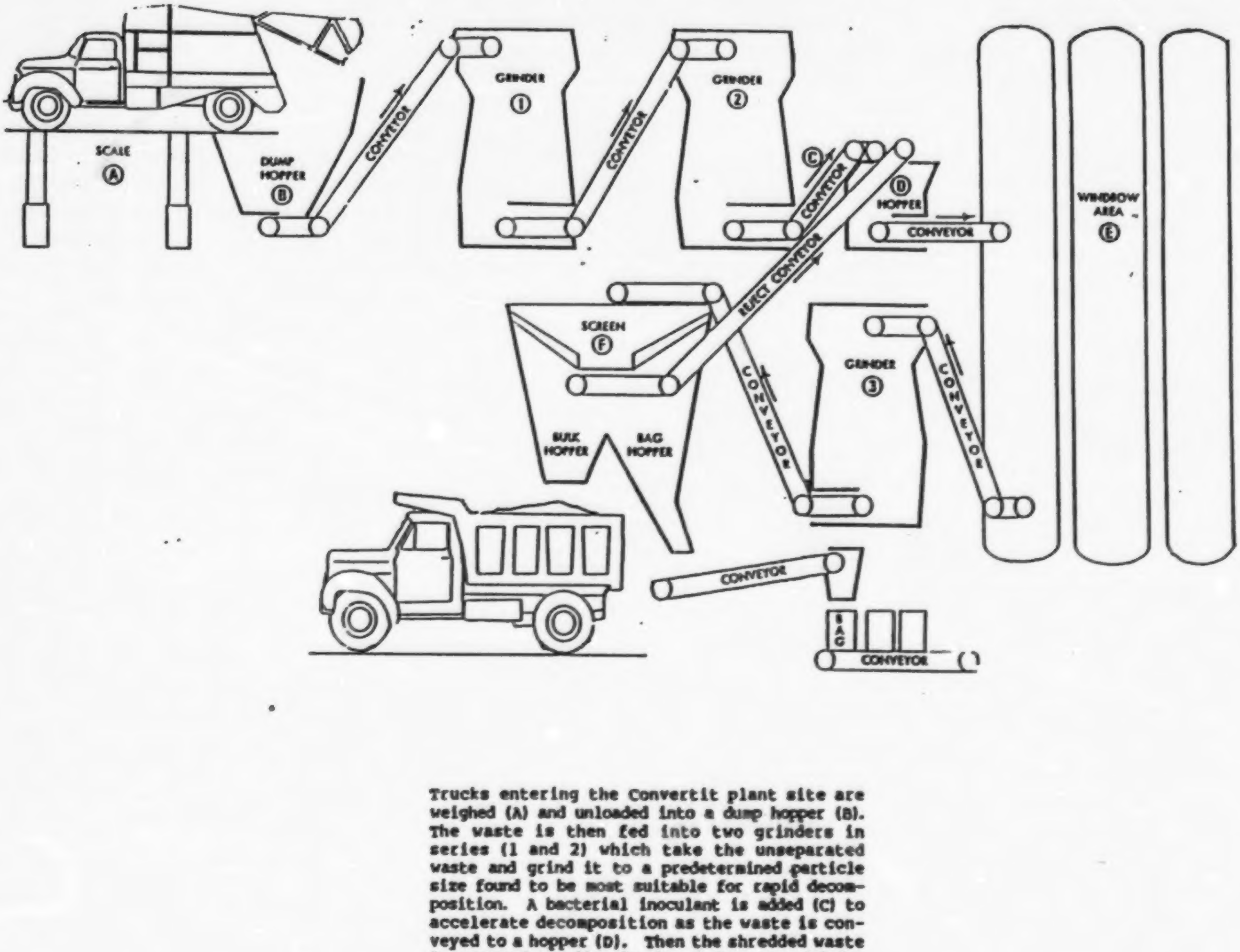
Final Shredding and Screening

The finished compost is delivered from the composting area to a third hammermill where it is ground to its final size and screened to insure full elimination of all coarse particles. It is then either bagged or sent to bulk storage for later shipment by truck, rail, or ship. The screening process rejects about 15% of the material as too coarse, and the rejected material is blended with incoming waste and reprocessed to eventually achieve total recovery

As a result of this shredding and composting process, the organic materials are converted into humus through aerobic decomposition, the metals are converted into small-grained metallic oxides by oxidation, and nonmetallic inert materials such as glass and plastic and ground into fine sand-like particles. The process reduces the weight of the incoming waste by about 30% (due primarily to loss of moisture) and reduces the volume by 70% to 80%.

CONVERTIT

. . . a TESTED and PROVEN system of operation


SCALE
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HOPPER
CONVEYOR
WINDROW AREA
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REJECT CONVEYOR
SCREEN
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CONVEYOR
GRINDER
③
CONVEYOR
BULK HOPPER
BAG HOPPER
CONVEYOR
BAG
CONVEYOR

Trucks entering the Convertit plant site are weighed (A) and unloaded into a dump hopper (B). The waste is then fed into two grinders in series (1 and 2) which take the unseparated waste and grind it to a predetermined particle size found to be most suitable for rapid decomposition. A bacterial inoculant is added (C) to accelerate decomposition as the waste is conveyed to a hopper (D). Then the shredded waste is conveyed to piles in the windrow area (E) for composting.

The windrow areas are maintained under strict control for 14 to 21 days. Each pile is numbered and methodically turned and mixed, with temperature and moisture carefully controlled. The material is then conveyed to the final grinder (3) for reduction prior to screening. It is passed through a vibrating screen (F), and the oversized material is recycled for further decomposition. The screened material goes on to bulk storage, shipment, or final bagging.

Commercial grade fertilizer produced at former Kingston facility.

The End Product - Agrisoil

Agrisoil, the product made from Agripost's full waste - conversion process, is really a combination of products. First and formost, it is a compost—about 60% of the product is decomposed organic material, with all of the moisture-retention and aeration properties of any good compost. When added to sandy soils, it will greatly enhance the ability of that soil to retain moisture and nutrients near the plant roots; and, when added to clay, it will break up or aerate such soils to enable moisture and nutrients to reach root systems.

But Agrisoil is much more than just a compost. It also contains abundant quantities of all the nutrients essential to plant growth. Agrisoil's origin—municipal solid waste (including food waste, paper, metal, glass, plastics, leather, rubber, lawn clippings, etc.)—provides a consistently wide range of elements in a form safe for commercial and consumer use. In addition tot he major nutrients. (nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium), Agrisoil contains a blended spectrum of the 13 essential micronutrients such as magnesium, zinc, sulfur, manganese, iron, copper, molybdenum, and boron, all of which are necessary plant-growth elements in a harmonious, balanced blend. It is the presence of these trace elements in significant quantities which makes the product particularly effective.

Agrisoil also has other important attributes:

Texture.

The product is free-flowing, even after long storage, and does not "cake" when moistened. This is partially the result of silica and mineral elements and nonbiodegradable materials that are received in the municipal waste. The product can be applied with a conventional spreader.

pH.

The product's pH level can be controlled within a range of about 5.8 to 7.6 according to the needs of particular soils or crops. Unless otherwise requested, the delivered value will be close to neutral, about 6.8.

Color

The product is dark in color, similar to rich natural dirt or humus. In areas with sandy or rocky soils, the dark color has been found to raise soil temperatures at least 2% to 3% at night, increasing bacterial activity, stimulating growth, and retarding frost damage. It is even capable of reclaiming desert areas and turning them into arable land.

Elemental Release

Agrisoil's unique composition provides a combination of readily available and slow-release nutrients.

Safety

Agrisoil is absolutely safe for general application in agriculture and horticulture. In the 1960's, the National Bureau of Standards (U.S. Department of Commerce) determined Agrisoil to be nonhazardous for food-chain crops; and the U.S. Department of Agriculture approved the import of Agrisoil from the former Jamaican facility for nonrestrictive application in agriculture.

Recent independent laboratory tests—including the EPA priority Pollutants and Toxic Metals examinations—also show Agrisoil to be safe for use with all vegetation.

Product Marketing

Agrisoil's markets are wide and varied. To the fruit or vegetable farmer, it is fertilizer or soil amendment. To the nurseryman, it is a complete growing medium. To a greenskeeper, it is a top dressing or lawn treatment. To a landscaper, it is a filler for soil-poor areas. And to anyone with a green thumb, it is a rich potting soil or garden supplement.

During the operation of the McKeesport, Pennsylvania, facility, Agrisoil was successfully marketed as a registered fertilizer in Pennsylvania and New York under the "Orcoa" label. Under the "Sun Farm" label, the product was widely distributed from the Kingston, Jamaica, plant into Caribbean and U.S. markets. Florida proved to be a particularly successful market as the product provided not only natural elements for fertilization but also a soil-like medium for plant support.

Advantages of the Convertit Process

Total Waste Disposal

Virtually 100% of the incoming waste is converted into the salable end product. Only hazardous on toxic, must be removed and disposed of special industrial landfills or through other channels.

The Convertit process does not require separation of metals, rubber, plastics, or glass from the organic materials, although separation of ferrous metals or aluminum is possible if the markets for such products make it financially desirable to do so.

Simple and Reliable

The process is not "high tech." All equipment is off-the-shelf and is readily maintained and repaired, resulting in virtually no "down" time.

Not Energy Intensive

Very little power is used in the Convertit process. Electric power is required only for grinding and screening equipment; and fuel is required only for mobile equipment such as dump trucks, front-end loaders, and pile-turning equipment.

Environmentally Safe

The Convertit process is free of any of the environmental problems characteristic of other disposal methods. No waste water is discharged form the plant except from personnel facilities (toilets and locker-room showers). All liquids from incoming waste are recycled into the windrow piles and consumed in the composting process. All phases of the process take place and the high temperatures generated in the compost piles serve to prevent insects and rodents from taking up residence. Since nothing is burned, there are no emissions.

.../3

No Location Problems

A Convertit plant avoids the most difficult problem presented by other waste-disposal alternatives—where to put it. Because of its environmental compatibility, a Convertit plant can be located in any urban area where the grabage-truck traffic is acceptable. The plant is completely enclosed and represents an attractive, well-landscaped, and meticulously maintained addition to the community.

Fast Construction

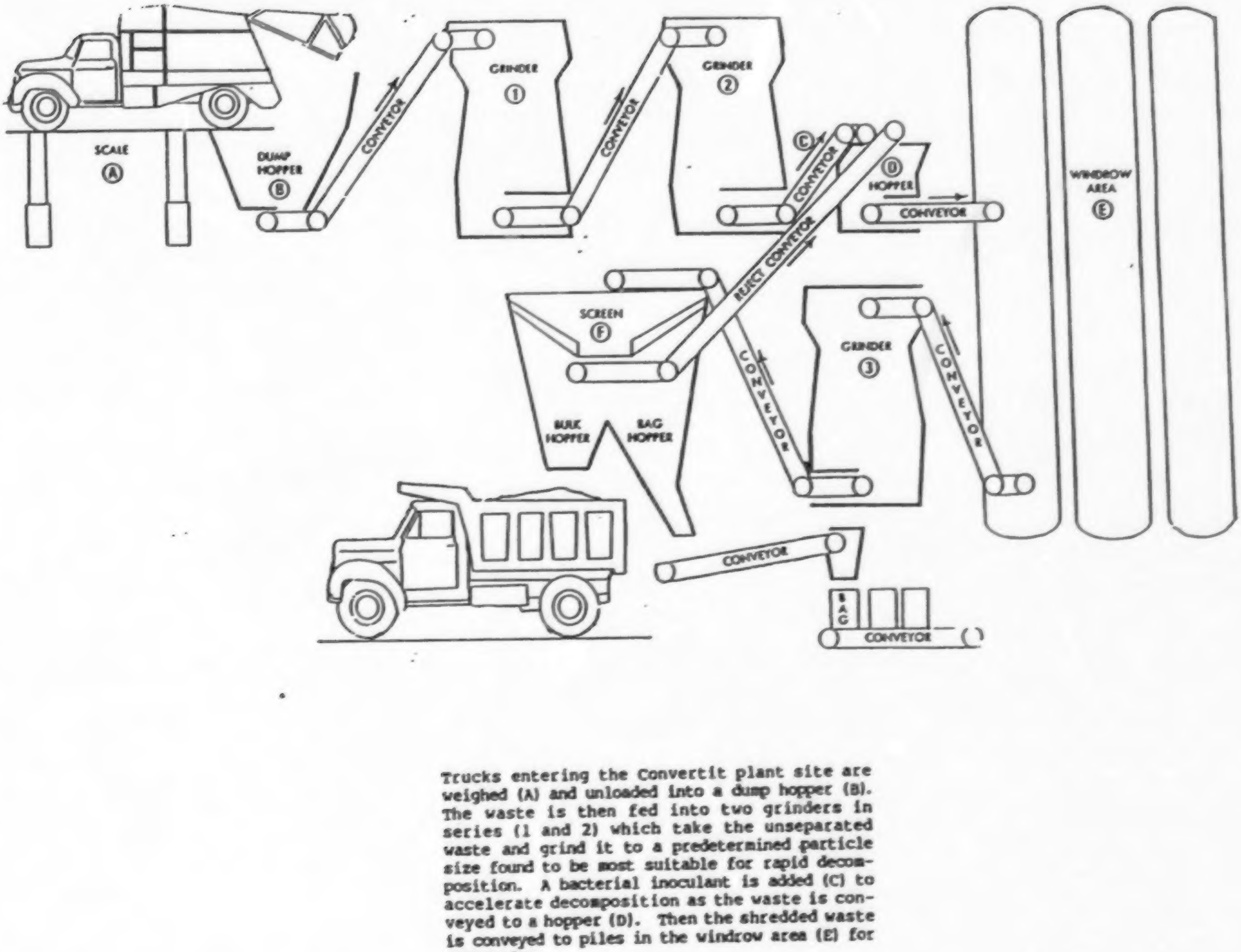
From groundbreaking to full operation, a Convertit plant can be completed in about 15 months (12 for construction and 3 for plant shadedown).

Lower Costs

As compared with other waste-disposal alternatives, a Convertit plant is much less expensive. Because Agripost's process is simple

CONVERTIT

. . . a TESTED and PROVEN system of operation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WINDROW AREA
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REJECT CONVEYOR
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BAG
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The windrow areas are maintained under strict control for 14 to 21 days. Each pile is numbered and methodically turned and mixed, with temperature and moisture carefully controlled. The material is then conveyed to the final grinder (3) for reduction prior to screening. It is passed through a vibrating screen (F), and the oversized material is recycled for further decomposition. The screened material goes on to bulk storage, shipment, or final bagging.

Pilot Tests on Agrisoil Production

In arranging the Dade Co. plant there was concern that the garbage of 20 and 30 years ago was significantly different in content and hence in content of the manufactured product in 1988. This short report answers that question.

It should also be noted that Agrisoil is approved by the USDA for addition to the food chain cycle in the US.

Numerous studies and reports are available on the McKeesport and Jamaica plants, including a movie showing the operation of the McKeesport plant and comments from the Mayor of McKeesport. All are available for inspection in Agripost’s office.

In 1982, a temporary pilot operation was conducted in rented facilities in Perrine, Florida (south Dade County), to prove that the process which has worked with McKessport and Jamaican waste in the 1950’s and 1960’s and 1960’s would work equally well with the somewhat different composition of MSW in Dade County in the 1980’s. Not only did the Perrine operation prove that the process would work with Dade County MSW, but the resultant product was later tested at the direction of the Dade County Department of Enviromental Resources Management (DERM) for The 129 Piority Pollutants. As a result, DERM authorized use and/or storage of Agrisoil throughout Dade county except in the immediate “cones of influence” of county wellfields. A copy of the DERM letter concerning storage is included as Exhibit A.

III. BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

The nationwide problems associated with solid waste disposal are apparent. Disposal options available to any individual community are, basically, landfilling, waste-to-energy, and nonburn technologies. Recycling or source separation, often considered an option, is really just an adjunct to the aforementioned disposal alternatives. Landfilling may still be the least expensive way to dispose of municipal solid waste (MSW), but landfill space is scarce because of increasingly prohibitive environmental considerations; and the expense of transportation offsets the economies of landfilling as the distance from the source of waste to the landfill becomes greater and greater. Waste-to-energy plants have their place but are extremely expensive, subject to intense citizen opposition because of the specter of air pollution and contamination (dioxins), and leave 15% to 25% of the waste in the form of ash or slag which must still be landfilled and which may be toxic. Consequently, nonburn technologies are at last becoming popular.

The first CONVERTIT composting facility was built in the town of McKeesport, Pennsylvania, in 1955 by Howard Burr. The plant was a technological success and processed 150 to 200 tons per day for several years. However, it could not succeed financially in the economic environment of the mid-1950's. Although the plant produced a safe, saleable end product, McKeesport would not pay any tipping fee and the company could not obtain a market price for the end product high enough to cover debt service and operating costs and still make a reasonable profit. Therefore, it became necessary to seek an alternative site.

In 1959, the firm decided to move the plant to Jamaica where the product could be sold for a higher price because of the cost of importing chemical fertilizers to the island. The Jamaica plant opened in 1960 and functioned with both technical and financial success for over 10 years, processing about 300 tons per day and selling the end product (then called Supersoil) in both the Caribbean Islands and south Florida at prices as high as $50 per ton. Unfortunately, in the early 1970's the Jamaican government decided it wanted more than 50% ownership of the plant. This was unacceptable to Mr. Burr, so the plant was closed. It has remained closed ever since, although the current Jamaican government has expressed a strong desire to have a new plant built.

In 1978, to pursue the opportunities confirmed by his Jamaican experience, Mr. Burr persuaded a businessman (Paul Faske) and an engineer (Ed West) to form Agripost, Inc., to promote the CONVERTIT technology. Soon after it was formed, Agripost found a willing customer in Dade County, Florida. The County was in the process of building a 3,000-ton-per-day (TPD) burning plant (the largest in the country) and wanted to spread its risks by also trying a nonburning technology. Since South Florida, with its 12-month growing season, huge agricultural and horticultural industries, and poor to nonexistent topsoil was an ideal market for the CONVERTIT product (now named Agrisoil), Agripost readily agreed to try to develop a project in Dade County.

Throughout the next 5 years, many variations of a contractual agreement were negotiated with the County, and several sites were identified and permitted.

However, during this time the County was not prepared to pay a tipping fee of more than $16 per ton, which was insufficient to cover both debt service and operating costs for a CONVERTIT facility. Without a proven market for the end product, this made it impossible for Agripost to finance the project.

In 1985, Paul Faske died and John Forrer became an active financial and managerial participant in the company. Mr. Forrer brought more than 25 years of governmental and business experience to the company as well as the financial resources of one of his real-estate companies, Cape Orlando Corporation. To date, he has invested approximately $1.3 million in cash, and he has also assumed responsibility for an additional $2.3 million of liabilities incurred earlier by the company.

The financial dilemma in Dade County was finally resolved in 1986 when the County issued a new Request For Proposals (RFP) for a nonburning method of disposing of MSW. This time the RFP committed to 800 TPD of MSW (twice the 1980 level) and stipulated that the County would pay a tipping fee of $24 per ton.

The RFP was issued in June of 1986, and Agripost and 10 others responded by the deadline of August 1, 1986. Agripost was selected as the preferred bidder because it was the only bidder with a proven technology, a satisfactory site, and a cost structure which assured the County that the plant could be operated successfully with a $24 tipping fee. Negotiations between the company and the County commenced early in 1987, and a contract was signed and ratified by the County Commission on July 7, 1987.

The history summarized above is described in somewhat greater detail in the following article from The Christian Science Monitor (March 1, 1988).

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

AN INTERNATIONAL DAILY NEWSPAPER TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1988 50¢ (60¢ Canadian)

Green grows garbage

'Convertit' process turns municipal trash into fertilizer

By Peter Tonge
Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

Pompano Beach, Fla.

WHEN Howard G. Burr pulled himself from the wreckage of his B-17 bomber in occupied Czechoslovakia toward the end of World War II, he promptly set a course for Allied lines in Belgium – and walked his way to freedom.

It wasn't easy. The obstacles were many and the need to detour frequent, but he made it. In many ways that wartime experience was to be the proving ground for a much more daunting journey Burr would subsequently undertake – the arduous and often frustrating task of promoting simple, environmentally sound garbage disposal in the United States with a unique system of his own design.

Plans are being completed for a Florida fa-y that will demonstrate Burr's "Convertit" ess, which converts everything from the corn flakes box to the junked refrigerator, including auto tires and glass bottles, into a fertilizer and soil conditioner approved by the Environmental Protection Agency and the US Department of Agriculture.

Nothing remains for the landfill, which is what makes the method so remarkable. The plant is expected to come on stream by the middle of next summer.

The Convertit process is more than mere theory. Fourteen years of pilot-plant operation, briefly in the US during the '50s and for 12 subsequent years on the Caribbean island of Jamaica, have proved both the system and the end product. The bulk of the Jamaican product was [illegible]orted to the US, and was liberally used in landscaping the Disney World theme park in Orlando, Fla.

Burr foresaw the [illegible]id waste problems, [illegible] so obvious, as far back as 1951. At that time most people believed landfills would provide a timeless solution to solid waste. "Why bother when we can bury it," was the standard reasoning of the day. Even so, Burr persisted with the ideas first sketched out on the drawing boards of his Pittsburg engineering company.

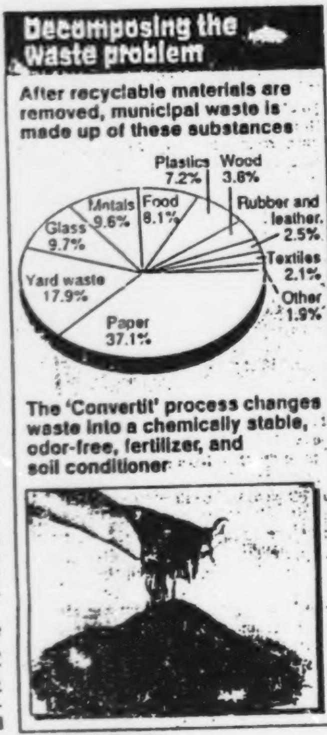
At first he experimented with waste separation, leaving only the organic matter for composting, but that appeared complicated and far from economic at the time. Besides, he recognized that society would much prefer a turn-key approach that would handle all household and commercial waste. But he was concerned that the nonorganic materials would contaminate the end product. Further research turned up facts about the waste stream that surprised him: The inorganic matter contains minerals and trace elements vital to vigorous plant growth.

In fact the USDA's 1967 Yearbook, entitled "Soil" and now considered a classic, has this to say on page 121: "The modern American kitchen contains enough boron to produce 16 tons [illegible] alfa hay. This boron is in the enamel in freezers, stoves, refrigerators, sinks, dishes, and glassware." Several analyses of the Convertit compost bear this out and more. One, done in 1978 by Dr. J. F. T. Berliner, a chemical and engineering consultant of Chicago, noted, "There are at least 24 mineral elements present that serve as plant nutrients," including "all 17 now established as essential to plant growth, and to seed and fruit formation."

Burr first erected a small demonstration plant in McKeesport, Pa., in the late '60s, selling the end product principally in Pittsburgh. But when he suggested to McKeesport officials that they should pay a small tipping fee for dropping the garbage at the plant, they objected and promptly banned the transportation of garbage through their streets from those neighboring towns that were prepared to pay. So Burr accepted an invitation to move his plant to Jamaica. It was to prove a mixed blessing.

In the city of Kingston, the effectiveness of the process was proved beyond doubt. But with independence came a left-wing government hostile to the business community. Burr was first required to double the labor force without increasing output. Even so the plant was able to operate; but when told that he had to hand over majority control to the government, Burr simply packed up and walked away, leaving the equipment to decay.

Since then a more moderate government has come to power, and Burr has been approached several times to reopen what is now conceded to be a much-needed "fertilizer plant." (Jamaica has to import all its fertilizers). Burr's concern is that he does not want to invest in the island again only to have his former foes returned to power in a subsequent election.



Source: Franklin Associates

USA REGALLARD – STAFF; PHOTO COURTESY OF AGRIPOST, INC.

Meanwhile, even in the US the road to success has been far from smooth for the Agripost company he founded to market and operate the Convertit system. One plant destined for Rochester, N.Y., was turned down in favor of an incinerator, which has since been closed by the Environmental Protection Agency. And after the city of Coral Gables, Fla., opted for the Burr system, Dade County pressure thwarted the decision, again in favor of a regional incinerator.

Bill Chapman, Coral Gables mayor at the time, contends the city was cheated. Today transport to and tipping fees at the regional incinerator cost Coral Gables five times its contracted price with Agripost. "A transfer station, costing more than the Agripost plant we wanted, had to be built [to feed the incinerator].

Please see TRASH next page

TRASH

from preceding page

That's just a place where garbage is dropped off and picked up again," Mr. Chapman said in a recent interview.

"I went down to look over the plant in Kingston," says Chapman. "The system is simple, straightforward, meets all health requirements, and there's no smell within minutes of the fresh garbage being shredded. It's absolutely amazing! You could site it in the middle of town and except for the trucks no one would know it was a garbage processing plant."

In the Convertit system, garbage is shredded twice, seeded with a proprietary bacterial innoculant, and stacked in windrows (all indoors) that are turned every three days. Windrow temperatures rise to a sterilizing 170 degrees F. Organic materials – paper, wood, food waste, etc. – are digested by the bacteria and their enzymes while the metal and other products are disintegrated by the chemical action within the pile. Even glass is dramatically altered, and any plastic is indistinguishable as a filler material.

The finished product is chemically stable, odor-free, and ready for spreading on any land surface. Tests show that, even if used as clean fill, it has a bearing capacity well in excess of average Florida soil. According to Burr, "Even if I had to landfill it all, I could do so at half the cost of incineration."

Capital costs for a Convertit system plant are put at $26,000 to $30,000 per daily ton of capacity, working an 8-hour day.

PAGES 28,29 PROFILE OF THE AGRIPOST PRINCIPALS

Following is a pencil sketch of the principals involved in the development of Convertit in the States. Agripost is traded over the counter and copies of their SEC filing is available on request.

ject site to store up to 3 years´ worth of plant output.

K. Key Project Personnel

John Forrer, Chairman of the Board of Agripost, is a major real-estate developer in Florida. From 1974 through 1982, Mr. Forrer was a Director and senior officer of Cedar-Riverside Properties, owners and managers of extensive rental properties throughout the U.S. He is also a former Assistant Budget Director of New York City and has held positions with the U.S. Bureau of Budget and the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity.

Ed West, President and CEO of Agripost, has been with the Company since inception. Mr. West is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He holds a Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Masters Degree in Business Administration from George Washington University, and is a registered Professional Engineer in the state of West Virginia. From 1950 to 1972, he served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, attaining the rank of Colonel. Following his military service, Mr. West was President of Green Engineering for several years until Agripost was formed.

Howard Burr, Chief Technical Consultant, was the original developer of the CONVERTIT process. For 15 years, Mr. Burr owned and operated H. G. Burr, Inc., of Pittsburgh, an engineering company which had an international practice and employed over 300 people. Mr. Burr first became active in the solid waste disposal field in 1951 and constructed his first plant in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, in 1955. In 1965, he sold his engineering company, and since that time he has devoted his efforts almost entirely to operating the Jamaica plant and promoting the CONVERTIT process.

David Smith, Vice-President of Marketing, has served as Vice-President of firms in the marketing and savings and loan industries since the early 1960´s. In addition to marketing functions, Mr. Smith serves as the repository of knowledge on zoning, permitting, and the status of communities´ preferences on waste disposal technologies.

Robert Bischoff, Secretary/Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer, is a Certified Public Accountant and has been a Director of Agripost since 1982. Prior to his involvement with Agripost, he held several positions of accounting responsibility in both privately and publicly held companies.

In addition to the above officers and employees, Agripost has continuously sought to enhance its internal capabilities with the selective use of expert technical, legal, and financial consultants. Key among them are:

Dr. George Fitzpatrick, Associate Professor of Environmental Quality with the University of Florida at the Broward County station of the Institute of Food and Agricultural Research. Dr. Fitzpatrick teaches and directs research programs in Entomology and Toxicology. (Compost expert.)

Dr. C. Joseph Touhill, President of Baker/TSA, Inc., an internationally known environmental engineering firm headquartered in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania. (Environmental engineer.)

Lester A. Ward, President of Texmar Energy Systems, a company which assists clients in the development, financing, design, engineering, construction management, and operation of plant facilities for energy and resource recovery projects. (Design/construction support services.)

Parker Thomson, Senior Partner in the firm of Thomson, Zeder, Bohrer, Werth & Razook. (Legal advisor.)

Mark Croke, President, Energy Systems Finance. (Financial advisor.)

Douglas Land, President, Economic Analysis Group. (Financial advisor.)

IV. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONVERTIT TECHNOLOGY

The essence of the CONVERTIT technology is simplicity. Garbage and trash are prepared for composting by grinding in a series of standard hammermills. After the addition of an aerobic inoculant, the ground-up material is digested for 21 days in an enclosed, carefully managed, oxygen- and moisture-rich environment, and then further ground into the desired final particle size. All equipment is "off the shelf," and the building is a simple prefabricated structure like any other light industry would use. The process is environmentally safe because there are no leachates and no emissions, and the end product is pathogen free because it has been pasteurized by the high temperatures (131° to 175° F) obtained during composting.

The advantage of the CONVERTIT technology over other technologies is twofold: First, it is less expensive; and, second, it produces a more valuable end product. The key to both of these advantages is that the CONVERTIT process is the only process (burning or nonburning) that does not require either the separation of metals, glass, and plastics or the necessity to landfill a substantial residue. The entire unsorted stream of residential and commercial garbage and trash, excluding only the occasional refrigerator or mattress or other item which is too difficult to shred, can be processed. The metals and glass that other systems separate from the waste stream for sale as scrap are valuable in the soil conditioner/fertilizer produced by the system. Plants need not only the commonly known macronutrients--nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium--they also need micronutrients, almost all of which are the metals that are removed from the compost in other systems.

The Dade County plant will consist of 2 lines of first- and second-stage shredders capable of processing the estimated 800 tons per day in one shift. In effect, this provides a 100% redundancy factor. By simply working 2 shifts, the facility will be capable of processing all of the contractual waste using only a single line of process equipment.

In the facility, MSW will be received from Dade County transfer tractor-trailers and emptied onto a storage floor. After sorting to remove unshreddable and hazardous wastes, such as white goods and large steel objects, the MSW will be conveyed to the primary and secondary shredders where the size is reduced to 90% of the waste passing through a 1-1/2" screen. After shredding, a proprietary inoculum is added and the material is then conveyed to one of a series of windrows where the material is allowed to compost for approximately 21 days.

Periodically during the compost process, the windrows are turned to provide for aeration. The exact timing of the windrow turning is determined by precise measurement of heat and moisture in the composting piles. Water is also added during the turning process to adjust the water content to the optimum level. During the compost process, internal pile temperatures are maintained between 131° F (55° C) and 175° F (80° C) for 15 consecutive days.

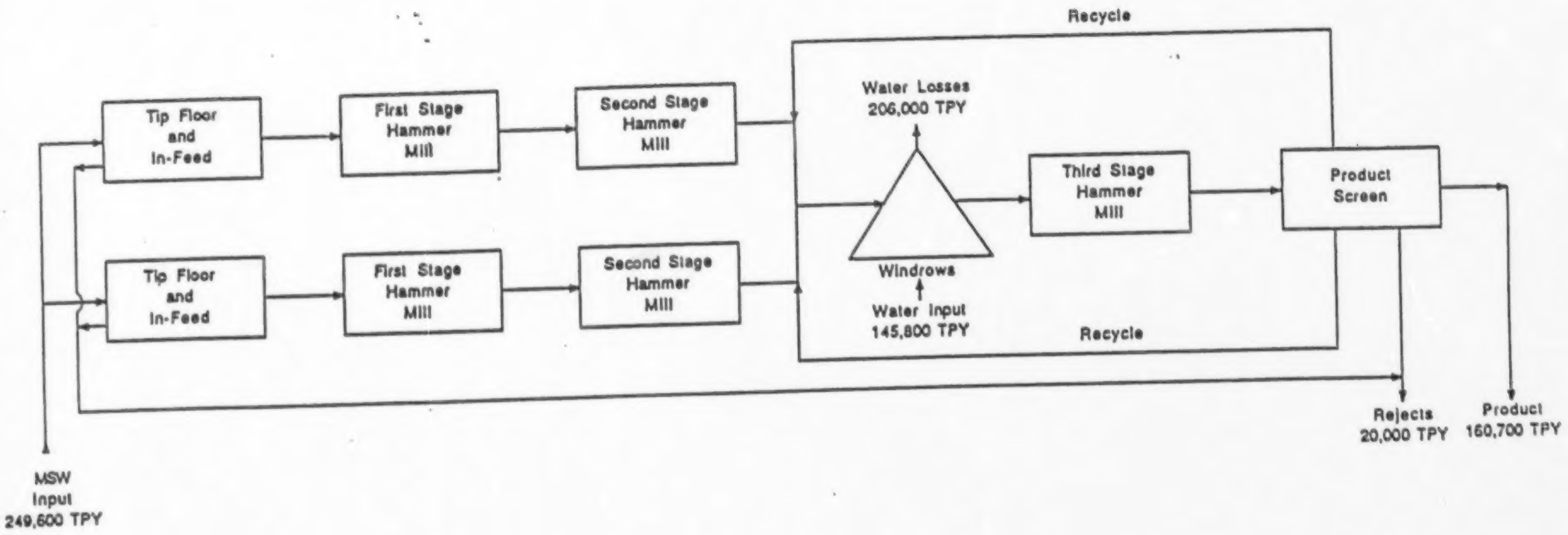
As a result of this shredding and composting process, the organic materials are converted into humus by aerobic composting, the metals are converted into small-grained metallic oxides by oxidation, and nonmetallic materials are ground into fine sand-like particles. The process reduces the weight of the incoming MSW by about 30% (due primarily to loss of moisture) and reduces the volume by 50% to 80% (depending on the degree of compaction of the MSW when it is delivered to the plan).

The finished compost is delivered to a tertiary shredder to reduce its size still further. After this shredding stage, the material is screened and oversized material is recycled to the compost process. The product which passes through a 1/8" screen is ready for market. The resulting product, which can be used as a complete potting soil, a soil supplement, a complete fertilizer, or a fertilizer ingredient, is a predominantly organic material which contains not only nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, but also 16 other micronutrients which are equally important to plant growth (but which are substantially removed if separation were involved).

Schematics of the CONVERTIT process are set forth on the following 3 pages.

Agripost owns world-wide rights to the CONVERTIT technology having purchased them from Howard Burr's predecessor company. Mr. Burr is under contract to Agripost. The process is not patented, but the aerobic inoculant is a formula known only to Mr. Burr and other company personnel; and the materials-handling, processes and equipment modifications necessary to make the system work at peak efficiency are likewise known only to those involved in the operation of the previous plants. It is believed that any effort to patent the process would probably be fruitless and would disclose useful information to potential competitors who could then make slight modifications to avoid patent restraints.

Agripost Process
Basic Process Flow Diagram


Tip Floor and In-Feed
First Stage Hammer Mill
Second Stage Hammer Mill
Tip Floor and In-Feed
First Stage Hammer Mill
Second Stage Hammer Mill
Recycle
Water Losses 206,000 TPY
Windrows
Water Input 145,800 TPY
Third Stage Hammer Mill
Product Screen
Recycle
MSW Input 249,600 TPY
Rejects 20,000 TPY
Product 160,700 TPY

HALIFAX, JULY 28, 1988

Presentation by

Miss Neema Kulkarni
45 Inverness Avenue, Dartmouth, N.S.

Hello, my name is Neema Kulkarni and this is Pradeep Chandra. We're here to tell you about our interest and involvement in recycling. Two years ago my sister, Shama, began a newspaper recycling project to raise money for a youth leadership camp called Project S.E.A.D. In fact, Pradeep and I have just returned from participating in this camp organized by the Youth Leadership Council.

After attending S.E.A.D. my sister, myself, Pradeep and my father continued to collect and transport an average of 1200 pounds of newspaper a month. The money has been given to various charities and in the past few months to help Pradeep and I pay for the camp fees.

But what we have noted in our experiences is the need for greater active participation of our neighbours to maintain the recycling project. It is not really efficient to spend an hour collecting bags of newspaper that don't weigh enough to pay gas money. The project needs to be done on a larger scale, it can be done and has been done.

We feel that schools, as well as business offices and any other place where paper is in greater quantities should implement recycling programs within their systems.

As young people we spend a great deal of time in school so our priority is to get our friends and classmates involved in recycling. The North Toronto Collegiate Institute is a school that has maintained a recycling program, run by the students, since 1979. We feel that with their example, recycling can become a part of our schools and society as a whole. The key is public awareness and participation.

We are interested in continuing our recycling project and hope to see more projects like it throughout the City.

Thank you for your time and attention.

SUBMISSION
to the
MINISTER'S TASK FORCE ON LITTER ABATEMENT

from
THE CLEAN NOVA SCOTIA FOUNDATION

July 29, 1988

The following are point by point recommendations from The Clean Nova Scotia Foundation for action to be taken by the Minister of the Environment to reduce the abuse of litter on Nova Scotian's visual surroundings.

Education

The Clean Nova Scotia Foundation recommends that an ongoing media campaign be developed to constantly remind Nova Scotians that littering and uncontrolled waste generation is unacceptable (in much the same way that Participaction advises that an unfit body is unacceptable). This would provide the umbrella for a variety of educational programmes. The Foundation supports the concept of a comprehensive environmental study component (that would include units on litter and waste reduction) to be included as part of the compulsory school curriculum in Nova Scotia. This would be complemented by educational/promotional projects that would target specific littering situations, for example:

1. Cinema/festival/sport/event sites
2. Construction sites
3. Marine
4. Automobile
5. Off-track/wilderness/parks
6. School yards/public spaces

Each division would be approached in ways that suited the peculiarities of the situation. For example, for construction site litter abatement a programme would require the cooperation of the various unions, construction association, architect/specification writers association, developer groups. They would develop guidelines for the inclusion of penalties in construction contracts for littering, suggestions on waste and litter reduction, and the creation of a code for tidy construction sites.

Legislation

All existing provincial laws that relate to littering should be enforced. This will include the provisions under the Beverage Container Act, the Motor Vehicle Act and the Highways Act. To achieve this, departmental staff and enforcement officers of other agencies will require specific training in monitoring and apprehension techniques. Simplified charge systems should be developed (litter tickets). An information campaign to notify the industry and public that action is to be taken, is an essential ingredient of administering the legislation.

Until the existing legislation is given the chance to take effect The Clean Nova Scotia Foundation recommends to the Minister that amendments to the Beverage Container Act be held in abeyance. In the meantime it is recommended that serious negotiations take place with those industries whose wrappings, packs or containers most often show up in the litter stream. These discussions will be designed to achieve voluntary commitments in lieu of strong regulatory legislation. Those industries involved with tobacco and confectionery, off premises food service, beverage production (milk derivatives, juices, alcohol, carbonated and non-carbonated drinks) will be called upon to establish self-imposed levies to generate funds that will finance such activities as effective long term educational/promotional programmes, litter/collection and recycling projects, litter clean-up squads, and industry/public information services. The funds would be generated by each participant based on a fixed amount per unit, e.g. per pack, litre, take-out order, etc. The funds would be administered through a private organization that encompasses the interest and participation of all parties - The Clean Nova Scotia Foundation.

Together with the Minister the industries would set goals and deadlines to achieve litter and waste reduction targets. If these targets are achieved the Minister would continue to hold in abeyance more stringent legislation.

Litter Receptacles

The Minister of the Environment is urged to recommend to his colleagues in other departments and municipal leaders that proper trash disposal be made as easy as possible. The Clean Nova Scotia Foundation strongly urges the construction of lay-bys with car side litter receptacles at all interchanges on 100 series highways in the province. These lay-bys could also provide other services to motorists including telephone and regional tourist/business information kiosks. These locations would be identified by the appropriate signage on site and included with other off-highway information signage connected to exit signs. Servicing of each of these sites would be handled in cooperation with local municipalities. We further recommend that the Minister of the Environment initiate a programme (which could be administered through The Clean Nova Scotia Foundation) that would provide cost sharing for the provision of additional trash receptacles in Nova Scotian communities. This would be complemented by guidelines on design, location, space frequency, servicing and maintenance. This programme would be made available also to commercial and industrial establishments.

Recycling

The Clean Nova Scotia Foundation supports the concept that litter abatement and waste reduction go hand in hand. We would suggest that those parties involved in the collection and recycling of waste items be encouraged to expand their interests and enlarge their operations. Support should specifically be given to advising the public of existing collection services. Financial incentives could be provided to offset transportation costs where recyclable products have to be shipped outside the province to be processed. It is further suggested that the Minister of the Environment advises Nova Scotia municipalities of the merits of waste diversion from the existing disposal sites and further provides information on the techniques of establishing waste diversion savings facts.

Conclusion

The Clean Nova Scotia Foundation recognizes that the Minister of the Environment has placed a high priority on establishing waste and litter reduction programmes in the province. We urge that actions be carried out in the same vein as the model provided by the structure of the Foundation, that of a cooperative inter-relationship between all involved parties. We therefore believe that strong encouragement for voluntary action supported by enabling legislation, is the approach to create a litter-free province.